THURSDAY
February 13, 2025

BENGALURU
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'PARASITIC EXISTENCE'

Justice Gavai questions freebies for the poor

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We should catch up with new trends, says CDS

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Centre endangering border security: Cong.

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Dangerous concessions on nuclear liability

Proposed amendments a matter of concern

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SWEEPING SUCCESS

Dominant Men in Blue complete demolition

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NEARBY

Vijayapura is key destination

BENGALURU
Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said Karnataka may attract cumulative investments to the tune of ₹10 lakh crore through the global investors conference. Day two of the event saw Vijayapura district attracting substantial investments. » Page 6

Woman booked for using laptop while driving

BENGALURU
A video recording of a woman driving on the busy Airport Road and appearing to be attending to official work on her laptop, has landed her in trouble with the police.
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Retail inflation eases to five-month low of 4.31%

The rise in food prices slows for the third straight month to 6% in January; inflation for urban consumers drops to 3.87%, below the RBI's 4% median target for inflation but edible oils spike

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation cooled to a five-month low of 4.31% in January, from 5.22% in December 2024, and 5.1% a year ago. The rise in food prices has decelerated for the third successive month to 6%, from 8.4% in the preceding month, but the prices of edible oils and fruits flared up sharply.

The price rise faced by urban consumers in January dropped to 3.87%, below the Central bank's 4% median target for inflation. For rural consumers, price rice remained above the median target at 4.64%, but down from December's 5.8% rise.

The latest inflation figures were reported just days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) move to slash interest rates by 0.25 percentage points last Friday on the premise that inflation is declining and will soften to 4.2% in 2025-26 while growth needs are more pressing.

Rupee depreciation

The RBI has projected inflation to average 4.4% between January to March, which could imply mild spikes in the price rise pace over this month and the next. Economists have flagged worries about imported inflation as the rupee's depreciation could weigh on the cost of items like edible oils, fertilizers, and petroleum.

"Over the past few months, edible oil has emerged as a major pressure point for food inflation, impacted by high global prices and import duties. Since around 60% of edible oil is imported, the weakening currency also adversely impacts its price," cautioned Dharmakirti Joshi, chief economist at Crisil.

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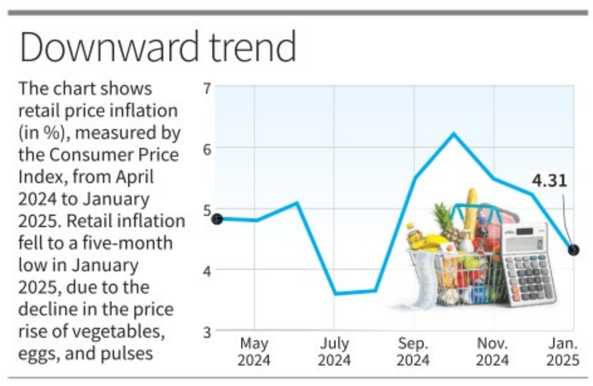
Downward trend
The chart shows retail price inflation (in %), measured by the Consumer Price Index, from April 2024 to January 2025. Retail inflation fell to a five-month low in January 2025, due to the decline in the price rise of vegetables, eggs, and pulses
7
6
5
4
3
4.31
May 2024
July 2024
Sep. 2024
Nov. 2024
Jan. 2025

At 3.2% in Dec., IIP growth skids to 4-month low

NEW DELHI
Growth in India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) dipped to a four-month low of 3.2% in December, with manufacturing and mining sectors rising just 3% and 2.6%, respectively. » PAGE 17

IMEC project gains traction as Modi, Macron hold talks

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India and France on Wednesday announced that they would continue to work closely to implement the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) project.

The project proposes to connect India to Europe through sea and land routes. A discussion on the project was held during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to France, where he spoke at the Paris AI Action summit and held talks with President Emmanuel Macron.

"The two leaders recalled the launch of the IMEC on the margins of the G-20 Summit in Delhi in September 2023 and agreed to work together more closely on implementing the initiative," said a joint statement issued after the visit.

IMEC, which involves the participation of Israel, had failed to make headway because of the Gaza conflict.

The French and Indian leadership highlighted the importance of the project for prosperity of India and Europe.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told the media that after the AI summit, Mr. Modi reached Marseille on Tuesday in the French presidential aircraft.

"Marseilles will be the entry point for the whole European market, and IMEC will channel a lot of energy to Marseille," Mr. Macron said.

The two sides also agreed to develop nuclear reactors jointly. The joint statement said officials from both sides signed a letter of intent on production of small and advanced modular reactors. The two leaders described nuclear energy as an "essential part of the energy mix".

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Warm greetings: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron in Marseille on Wednesday. AP

Flu check

A worker cleans a poultry farm in NTR district on Wednesday with bird flu cases being reported in Andhra Pradesh. G.N. RAO

Governor gives nod to Ordinance on MFIs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has finally approved The Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025, with a few suggestions on what needs to be incorporated at the time of its execution.

Following the clearance, the Ordinance was gazetted on Wednesday.

With this, hurdles have been cleared for cracking the whip on unregistered and unlicensed microfinance institutions (MFIs) that employ coercive means to recover loans given to poor people.

Thaawarchand Gehlot

While giving his assent, the Governor observed, "The Ordinance is a good step towards regulating the actions of unregulated/unregistered MFIs and moneylending agencies or organisations, and thereby, protecting and relieving the economically vulnerable groups and individuals from the undue hardship of usurious interest rates and coercive means of recovery."

At the same time, he also said, "Even though the Ordinance has the best of intentions, the legal and social impact of the Ordinance needs to be deliberated in detail in both the legislature Houses."

The Governor said that at the time of execution of the Ordinance, the State government should ensure that all legal, registered and regulated bodies like banks (including small finance banks, local area banks, regional rural banks and business correspondents of banks) regulated by RBI, all cooperative banks and all non-banking financial companies and housing finance corporations, registered under RBI, were not to be harassed by either misinterpretation or misutilisation of this legislation.

Need for precautions

He suggested to the government to take precaution to ensure that lawful and genuine lenders did not face trouble. If not, they had no remedy to recover their pending amounts which may lead to legal battles and burdensome litigations, he pointed out, and asked government to take all corrective steps.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Father in the dock after BPO employee drowns in lake

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The father of a 20-year-old BPO employee has been booked after she drowned in a lake at Hebbagodi on Tuesday. They were on their way home on a two-wheeler from a panchayat meeting regarding a dispute over her marriage.

According to the police, the deceased was identified as Sahana. She was engaged to her relative, but was in love with Nitin, 21, a factory employee and resident of Hebbagodi. Sahana was working in a BPO, while her father, Ramamurthy, worked in a handloom unit.

The police said Sahana had refused to marry her relative as she was in love with Nitin and fought with her parents. Meanwhile, Nitin had also approached

The police said the victim had refused to marry her relative as she was in love with another boy and fought with her parents

Sahana's family and relatives, and requested them to allow him to marry her. However, the family refused and had called a panchayat meeting to decide, where Sahana reportedly reiterated before everyone that she was not interested in marrying her relative and wanted to marry Nitin.

The family sought time to decide. While her mother, younger sister, and other relatives went home in a car, Ramamurthy asked Sahana to come with him on his two-wheeler, said the police.

Ramamurthy allegedly told the police that while crossing the lake, he lost control and the two-wheeler plunged into the lake. He claimed that while he managed to swim to safety, Sahana, who did not know how to swim, drowned.

Her body was later recovered by Fire and Emergency Services personnel on Wednesday.

Ramamurthy told the police that he had not eaten or slept well owing to tension causing him to lose balance while driving.

However, Nitin accused the father of murder. Based on a complaint, the police have registered a case against Ramamurthy charging him with death due to negligence and they are awaiting the post-mortem report for further investigation.

Aero show, big-ticket business events bring cheer to city's tourism, hospitality sectors

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

With Bengaluru hosting a range of big events in February, the tourism sector and hospitality industry are having a bumper month. According to sources, the hospitality industry is expected to have a business of over ₹500 crore by the end of the month.

The ongoing Aero India, and the seventh edition of 'Invest Karnataka' have provided a much-needed boost to business tourism, according to the Tourism Department. The department also sees this trend as an opportunity to invest in and promote meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) tourism.

"Unlike leisure travelling, when people come for business, they travel in an unplanned manner and would like to see at least one or two destinations. For this purpose, we have put up stalls in both the events and we are getting a lot of activity," said Janardhana H.P., Joint Director, Tourism Department.

While delegates, pilots, and Ministers are staying in hotels because of Aero India, around 150 investors from 14 countries are in Bengaluru for 'Invest Karnataka 2025'. K. BHAGYA PRAKSH

He also said that most of the hotels in Bengaluru are booked owing to these events and more people are visiting restaurants, and other places in the city. "Most people who have come for business plan to travel between Friday and Monday. With all this, tourism as a sector is really benefiting," he added.

Confirming this, P.C. Rao, president, Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers' Association (BBHA), said there was 100% occupancy in all star hotels and most other hotels in the city. "After the aero show and Invest Karnataka 2025, we also have Karnataka International Tourism Expo (KITE) between February 26 and 28. While delegates, pilots, and Ministers are staying in hotels because of Aero India, around 150 investors from 14 countries are here for 'Invest Karnataka'. For KITE, we will be hosting 100 foreign delegates and 250 Indian delegates," he said.

Apart from accommodation, hotels have also struck the jackpot with dinner parties and food catering for these events.

It's 50:50 for them

While business events have brought in more patrons to bars and restaurants, the local footfall has reduced owing to the same events and even musical concerts which have been taking place since the beginning of this year.

"When it comes to events like Aero India or music concerts, the tickets are quite expensive. Some even travel to other cities for some concerts. Hence, their monthly budget has been affected, and we are not seeing the local crowd as much as usual. But we are getting a lot of outsiders this month and the industry is benefiting from it," said Chethan Hegde, who heads the Bengaluru chapter of the National Restaurants' Association of India.

With Valentine's Day around the corner, restaurant owners are optimistic about the footfall increasing during the weekend.

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 5

M BG-BGE

Kamalini — the accidental cricketer on the fast lane to stardom

The explosive opener shares the secret behind batting left-handed, taking up wicket-keeping, life as a World Cup winner and the upcoming Women's Premier League

B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Anirudh Velamuri
CHENNAI

At the Chennai International Airport a few days ago, a gaggle of television cameras set up shop and began the usual drill – checking all equipment, dragging the worn-down podium into position and strategically arranging microphones to best display their organisations' logos.

An inevitable guessing game followed. Whose arrival was the preparation for? Was it a politician? One could hear someone whispering that it was an actress flying back after a vacation.

When G. Kamalini walked out, barely visible behind the mountain of bags she was pushing, the cameras began rolling while passers-by looked on wondering why there was so much fuss about the diminutive kid who looked like she would rather be away from all the flashlights.

The women's game in India has increasingly commanded the attention of the nation with achievements like a second-consecutive U19 World Cup title being celebrated with much fanfare. Arriving in Chennai a little over 48 hours after the final, Kamalini stood by her family and patiently indulged the press.

Nearly three hours passed before Kamalini could begin her journey home where her favourite chicken biryani lay waiting. Celebrations aside, the family wanted to feed their famished daughter who didn't have the best culinary experience in Malaysia.

"I didn't like the food. I used to eat pancakes and fruit in the morning. In the afternoon, I used to eat a rice dish I don't even know the name of," she revealed, in a chat with The Hindu.

The 16-year-old, now well-fed and reasonably rested, recalled the World Cup triumph and the party, which involved cake, chips, coca cola and dancing till 1am, with glee.

Bright lights, big city

It was all well deserved. Kamalini was the third-highest run-getter (143) in the tournament, in a sport she took up purely by chance. A skater until the age of 12, cricket was a lockdown pastime as she began to bowl to her brother, Dominic Kishore, in the nets at their home in Madurai.

Seeing her aptitude for the game, Kamalini's father Gunalan decided to invest time and money in his daughter's career. The intimate and largely traditional confines of Madurai couldn't accommodate the pair's big ambitions and the family decided to relocate to Chennai.

"When we moved to Chennai, I didn't know what was happening. But I knew that I liked cricket and what I wanted to do. My father took the decision to move as the cost of travelling between the cities was greater than just shifting to Chennai. I just told my dad to do what he thought was best," she recalled.

For Kamalini, though, the first memories of staying in Chennai were not very pleasant.

"Initially, my mother was in Madurai and I was in Chennai with my father and brother. The first place we lived in was the most horrible place I have ever seen. But we had no choice as we had to stay to play in the ground there. After that we moved back to Madurai.

"Later we took the decision to move to Chennai and it has been three years since the move. I had some language issues initially since there was a difference in the Tamil dialect spoken in Madurai and Chennai. Over time I got over that and also made many friends here."

The switch

Kamalini's father has much to do with a lot of foundational decisions his daughter took in her early years in the sport. One of them was the right-handed Kamalini opting to train as a left-hand bat.

"My brother and I were playing in the verandah one day. We are both right-handed and in the game, we had to play left-handed. When he served underarm, I played the drive very well. Then my brother told my father that I was playing the [left-handed] drive superbly and that he should try me as a leftie. The very next day my father told me to play left-handed. I did and have never looked back.

The teenager is comfortably ambidextrous, and not just in cricket.

"I bowl with both my left hand and right hand. I write with my left hand and also my right hand. The only thing I don't do well with my left hand is throwing."

A fortuitous *coup de maître*, in hindsight.

Concealed grief

In 2023, Kamalini moved up to the Under-19 level and immediately showed her mettle. She hit 311 runs in eight matches to help Tamil Nadu triumph in the Under-19 domestic tournament in October. She followed that with a dazzling 79-run knock in the final of the U19 Tri-Series against South Africa A. Having earned a call-up to the Indian squad to feature in the U19 Asia Cup, everything was falling into place for the youngster. But things soon unravelled after her father suffered a massive heart attack,

needing open-heart surgery thereafter.

A weak heart notwithstanding, Gunalan lost sleep over how to keep his daughter's dreams intact. His transport business and financial bearings were impacted by his hospitalisation. More importantly, he was not with Kamalini guiding her through the gears of cricket.

A decision was taken by the entire family to keep Kamalini in the dark about everything.

"When it happened, I was not at home, I was playing for my State. My mother and brother did not tell me anything. 'Father is very well, he will be discharged soon' is what they kept telling me. I didn't have any information beyond that. Only after my father fully recovered did I get to know more details, that he went so close to death and returned," she recollected.

"I was angry as to why they didn't tell me everything before, but they sat me down and reminded me what I was doing at that moment, and how I would have performed had I known the full details. I was angry but I also understood why my mother did what she did."

Gunalan would agree that he was living his childhood dreams through his kids. A lack of support from his family had forced him to give up his cricketing aspirations.

He turned that disappointment into a stubborn drive to give his kids everything they needed. Kamalini's family's sacrifices kept fanning the flame of her passion for cricket. It was not enough to bat well or chip in with some off-spin. Kamalini veered towards keeping too.

"Wicketkeeping came naturally to me and I like it a lot. As I grew older, I was being asked if I was a wicketkeeper or a bowler. In one Under-15 domestic tournament, I bowled in two matches and kept wickets in the rest. In the Under-19s, I bowled in the T20s and was wicketkeeper in the 50-overs."

Her U19 coach Nooshin Al Khadeer had an important role to play in Kamalini persisting with keeping duties.

"At the World Cup, Nooshin ma'am asked me if I knew why she was making me a keeper. Being quick is one reason, but she said that I also keep the team together. I accepted it and began to fully focus on wicketkeeping, even more than I did on my battling. It actually helped my batting and improved my concentration and ball-eye coordination."

Mumbai calling

Kamalini went to Malaysia for the U-19 Women's T20 World Cup as a superstar. Her versatile stroke selection, footwork and enviable attitude help her set every stage participation on fire.

In the auction preceding the 2025 edition, Kamalini was registered at a base price of ₹10 lakh, Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians then sparred for rights to get the highest bid, with MI eventually having the last laugh - one worth a staggering ₹1.60 crore.

That's more than half the ₹2.65 crore purse money MI had when they sat down for the auctions.

Kamalini has a wise head on her shoulders. While excited about getting picked by MI for WPL 2025, Kamalini is also very mindful about making the most of her chances without setting any big expectations. The past few months have involved the company of some of the biggest names in the women's game in India. The youngster though is unfazed. No unnecessary respect.

"I do not have any favourite women cricketers and I am not saying it with any attitude. I can't be like Smriti [Mandhana], Smriti is Smriti. I can only be myself. Everyone says I play like Smriti, but we both have our own styles, I can't play like her."

So how about the men?

"I like Steve Smith and Chris Gayle. I like Smith's stance and I love the left-handed Gayle's hitting power. And, of course, my first favourite is my brother."

Her career so far has been like an endless teaser campaign for a product that takes the market by storm. Picking up cricket, becoming a left-hander, and donning the gloves - everything has been by chance, or divine intervention depending on how you want to see it.

The technical expertise has been a happy by-product but Kamalini is well and truly on the path to greatness.

THE GIST

- A skater until the age of 12, Kamalini picked up the ball for fun during the COVID-19 lockdowns and began to bowl to her brother, Dominic Kishore, in the nets at their home in Madurai
- In her maiden foray at the Under-19 level, she showed her mettle. Her 311 runs in eight matches helped Tamil Nadu triumph in the domestic tournament in October
- When Kamalini landed in Malaysia, there were a lot of expectations as she had set the stage alight in the WPL auction
- Having entered with a base price of ₹10 lakh, Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians had a bidding war before the latter secured her services for a staggering ₹1.60 crore

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Registrations open for BIFFes 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over 200 films from 60 countries will be screened in the 11 screens of PVR Cinemas in Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, in the 16th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes), which will be held from March 1-8.

Some of the highlights of the events include interactive sessions with filmmakers such as Chidambaram of *Manjummel Boys* (2024) fame, Rajkumar Periasamy, the director of the recent hit biopic *Amaran,* and ace cinematographer Ravi Varman, who recently got inducted into American Society of Cinematographers.

The organisers have also planned a full-day seminar on the use of Artificial Intelligence in film production.

The festival will have centenary tributes to legendary filmmakers Guru Dutt, Raj Kapoor, and Ritwik Ghatak and popular Kannada actor K.S. Ashwath. BIFFes is also set to screen the restored version of Girish Kasaravalli's National Award-winning *Ghatashraddha*.

BIFFes 2025 is set to have a retrospective section on Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal, Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski, and German filmmaker Wim Wenders. *Ankur* (1974), *Nishant (1975), Bhumika* (1977), *Manthan* (1976), and *Mammo* (1994) are some of the films of Benegal to be screened at the festival.

In the contemporary world cinema section, Oscar favourites *Anora* and *Emilia Perez* will be screened.

Tent cinema

During a press conference on Wednesday, actor Sadhu Kokila, chairman of the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy, said that the organisers are contemplating holding open-air film screenings.

"We want to screen old classics like *Bhootayyana Maga Ayyu* (1974) and *Naagarahaavu* (1972) using a 16mm projector. Like the olden days, we want people to experience the joy of watching films in an outdoor setting," said Mr. Kokila, adding that the idea is still in the planning stage.

Registrations for the festival are open on the official website Biffes.org. While the general public has to pay ₹800, film industry professionals, film society members, students, and senior citizens have to pay ₹400. After completing the online registration, passes can be collected at the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy (Nandini Layout) or at the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (Shivananda Circle) from February 18. For the full schedule, visit Biffes.org.

Couples look to fly away for Valentine's Day

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

With Valentine's Day falling on a Friday this time, city-based couples are making the most of it by going for weekend getaways and short vacations. Apart from romantic getaways, experiential and spiritual tours are also being preferred.

The Surya Kiran team showing some love during Aero India.
K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

"We have seen a demand surge from couples for the upcoming Valentine's Day long weekend; with significant additional uptick from the honeymoon segment - this being India's wedding season," said Rajeev Kale, president and country head, Holidays, MICE, Visa - Thomas Cook (India) Limited.

The surge in demand has been attributed to couples wanting to get out of the city and have more experiences.

"The desire for meaningful and immersive travel experiences is on the rise, with couples seeking unique and intimate settings to celebrate love and companionship. Additionally, the growing trend of experiential travel has led to increased bookings," said Rikant Pittie, CEO and co-founder, EaseMyTrip.

Most of the travellers for Valentine's Day this year are young couples, particularly from the Gen-Z and millennial demographics. These groups are keen on making the most of the long weekend by exploring new destinations that align with their desire for experiential travel," he added.

Nainital, Darjeeling, Manali, Kasol, Dalhousie, Kodagu, Munnar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Puducherry are the romantic favourites domestically, whereas some have even booked international travel escapades to no-visa countries/on-arrival visa destinations like Thailand, Malaysia, Mauritius, the U.A.E. etc.

"In addition to romantic escapades offering sundowners, private dining, spas, and wine tasting, our millennial couples are pushing the envelope with demand for fun outdoor adventure experiences such as yachting, kite sailing, scuba diving, camping, trekking, riding hot-air balloons, biking trips to scenic terrains; safari drives, and jungle experiences," Mr. Kale added.

Even with their accommodation options, couples are getting creative for the weekend.

Most of them have also shown a preference for non-conventional options like treehouses, cave hotels, *havelis*, bungalows, and villas rather than hotels and homestays.

Tour operators have also seen that with the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagaraj, couples are also preferring to go there as a form of experiential and religious travelling to "deepen their bonds."

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This Public Notice is to the hirers and also applies to their legal heirs of the deceased if any. A Copy of this Notice is sent by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due (RPAD) to the Hirers/Legal Heirs to pay the total locker arrears within the date of break open. The notices are sent to the addresses available last with the branch.
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2	Krishnaveni N G	1309002B031	11328		
3	Parvathamma	1302002B016	8496		
4	Joseph Jaganathan G	1336001B045	9912	21/02/2025	No. 93, 1st block, 3rd Main Road, RT Nagar, Bangalore - 560032.
5	Sameena Sultana	1336001B028	12744		
6	Sandeep S	1336001B034	8496		
7	Thahasina Taj	1337002B011	5664	24/02/2025	No.1 & 2, Acharya College Road, Near Krishna College, Opp. Jindal Govt. School, Chikkabanavara Village, Bangalore - 560090.
8	Putta Deepak Kumar	1337004F004	23600		
9	Putta Deepak Kumar	1337004F005	23600		
10	Ramesh Kumar B S	1337001B024	11564		
11	Narasimhaiah	1337002B014	6844		
12	Girish C Tikare	1346001B024	5310	25/02/2025	No.9, Outer Ring Road, Opposite Shirke Apartments, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore - 560060.
13	Prasad Kulkarni	1346002D060	17700		
14	Supriya Ghosh	1346001H051	35400		
15	Akshay Kumar	1353003F061	35400	25/02/2025	No. 471, BEML Layout, 3rd Stage, Jawaharlal Nehru Street, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore - 560098.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 12.02.2025

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The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

E-Procurement Short Tender Notice

NIT No. 06/E-Tenders-Works/ICAR-NISST/2024-25

Online tenders through two bid system are invited on Government e-procurement portal http://eprocure.gov.in for the work of **"Construction of Green House under RKVY, Project at ICAR-NISST, Regional station, GKVK Campus, UAS, Bengaluru."** Those contractors who are having registration in CPWD/ other state PWD/PWO of central/State Government and meeting other bid criteria, may participate in the bid.

Bid Downloading start date & time	11.02.25, 05.00 P.M.
Bid Downloading last date & time	20.02.25, 14.00 P.M.
Submission of bids last date & time	20.02.25, 14.00 P.M.
Date of opening of Technical bid	21.02.25, 15.00 P.M.
Date of opening of Financial bid	After Technical evaluation of the bid

Detail tender document & other T&C are available on
https://seedres.icar.gov.in/vacancies and
https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Sd/-
Asstt. Admin. Officer

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
P.B. 8005, C.V.Raman Avenue, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru - 560 080.

IASc/Gen/Admin/2025/12 **Dated: 04/02/2025**

Vacancy Notification for the Contractual Position of Consultant (Hindi)

The Indian Academy of Sciences invites applications from retired personnel/other individuals fulfilling the eligibility criteria for filling up one position of Consultant (Hindi) at the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru on a purely contractual basis initially for period of one year. The detailed terms and conditions are available at the website (**www.ias.ac.in/positions**).
Candidates meeting the age criteria and possessing the required qualifications, experience, etc. can send the application by Post/Courier in the prescribed format to: **The Executive Secretary, Indian Academy of Sciences,** Post Box No. 8005, C.V. Raman Avenue, Sadashivanagar Post, Raman Research Institute Campus, Bengaluru – 560080, to reach on or before the last date 15/03/2025.Link for vacancy circular - **www.ias.ac.in/positions.**
Place: **Bengaluru,** Date: **04/02/2025** **Executive Secretary**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Syndicate Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 04.03.2025

Last date of EMD : 03.03.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is". "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 04.03.2025 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM)** through E-Auction underthe Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/), e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **03.03.2025 at 5.00 pm** **(₹. in Lakhs)**

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets:	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1.	**(1) M/s. Ambika Electronics,** Ground Floor, No. 952, A Sunder Mahal, 14th Cross, Hoskerahalli, Girinagar, Bangalore-560085 **(2) Mr. Ramesh Aithal,** S/o Sri. K.Venkattraman Aithal, 85, Yukthi, Avalahalli, 3rd Stage, Girinagar, Bangalore-560055, **(3) Mr. K.Shantharam Holla,** S/o Achula Holla, B 202, Ashwini Apartment, 14 Ring Road, Banashankari, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070, **(4) Mr. K.V.R. Somayaji,** 97, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, J.P.Nagar, Sarakki Dollar Colony, Bangalore-560078 **(5) Smt. K.Veena** W/o Mr.K.V.R.Somayaji, 97, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, J.P.Nagar, Sarakki Dollar Colony, Bangalore-560078 **(6) Mr. Sri. Sadananda Maiya** S/o Late PYN Maiya, 342/20, Shanthala, 1st B Main Road, Jayanagar West, Bangalore-82.	Residential Property Site No 14 Old Sy No 59, PID no 55-142-14/49,Flats no B-202, `B`Block,Second Floor, Ashwini Apartments, No 14, 100 Feet Ring Road Near Devegowda Petrol Bunk 2nd Stage ,BBMP Ward no 182,Bengalore 560070 standing in the name of K shantharama Holla, Area 1809.25 Sq ft 3 BHK **Coordinates of the property , Latitude- 12.9196309N Longitude- 77.5619212E**	**Rs. 465434569.79/- as on 10.02.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.**	**a) ₹. 144.00 b) ₹. 14.40 c) ₹.1.00**	**28.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
		Residential property Site No.14 Old Sy. No.59, PID No.55-142-14/2, Flats no A 201, `A` Block, Second Floor, Ashwini Apartments, 100 Feet Ring Road Near Devegowda Petrol Bunk 2nd Stage ,BBMP Ward no 182,Bengalore 70 standing in the name of K V R Somayaji and Smt K Veena Area 1337.30Sq ft. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.9196309N Longitude- 77.5619212E**	**Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 108.00 b) ₹. 10.80 c) ₹.1.00**	
		Residential Site No 5, carved out of sy no 29/13 of Mayagananahalli Village, Kasaba hobli, Ramanagaram Taluk, V P Katha No 571-5-29/13, Measuring 8000 sft standing in the name of Sri Ramesh Aithal and K Shantahrama Holla. Area Sq Ft 8000. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.8062193N Longitude- 77.3170495E**		**a) ₹. 163.00 b) ₹. 16.30 c) ₹.1.00**	
2	**1. M/s Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd) Represented by its Hon. Secretary – Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan,** Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah; Tilaknagar, Mysore 570 021, **2. Mr. (Prof) Riaz Ahmed, President & Trustee, 3. Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan, Secretary & Trustee, 4. Mr. K C Shoukath Pasha, Joint Secretary & Trustee, 5. Dr. Abdur Rahman, Trustee, 6. Dr. M Sayeeb Ahmed, Trustee, 7. Mr. S P Ahmed Jan, Trustee. 8. Mr. (Prof.) Syed Akheel Ahmed, Trustee, 9. Mr. Ahmed Agha, Trustee, 10. Mr. Arif Mehkri, Trustee, 11. Dr. Muneer Ahmed, Trustee, 12. Mr. A S Sardar, Trustee, 13. Mr. Akbar Sayeed, Trustee (now reportedly died), Address of the above 2 to 13** M/s Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd), Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah; Tilaknagar, Mysore 570021.	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. A, Municipal Khatha No. A-1 to A-14, Situated at Laskar Mohalla, Mahadevpura Road, Udayagiri Mysore-570019. Measuring East to West 500 Feet and North to South 170+150/2 feet** and bounded on East By: Road West By: Road North By: Road South By: Road. Total extent of the property is 32,084 Sq ft. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.3243566, Longitude- 76.6749867**	**Rs. 684177235.29 as on 10.02.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.**	**a) ₹. 1135.21 b) ₹. 113.52 c) ₹.1.00**	**28.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
		All that piece and parcel of 4 Acres of land in Sy. No. 93/2-P-1, Belavatha Village @ Manti Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District bounded by East By : Land of Sanjeev Nayak West By : Land, Mohammed Saheb North By : Purniahana Nala South By : Land of Chikkanna. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.3537780 Longitude- 76.6470830 **NOTE: Total extent of land mortgaged to Bank is 80,000 Sq Ft. Out of which 47,916 Sq Ft is under litigation in Writ Petition No. 3732/2021, which will be put for auction after disposal of High Court case.**	**Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 539.44 b) ₹. 53.94 c) ₹.1.00**	
3	**(1) M/s Covalent,** No.46/2, (Ravi Edible Oil Refinery Compund), Bisuvanahalli, Doddaballabpur Road, Bengaluru Rural District-561203. **(2) Sri P Roshan** S/o Sri Paramashivaiah, No.48, 2nd Main Road, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru-560003.	Residential site carved out of lands in Sy No. 168 of Kodihalli village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk converted for residential purpose vide b.DIS.ALN.SR/6362 dated 21.03.1974 now within the limits of BBMP and bearing Municiple No. 168, PID No. 74-1-168 situated at old airport road, Kodihalli, Bengaluru under corporation ward No.74-Jeevana Bhimanagar and the site measuring 1935 sq ft. Boundaries of the site: East by: property belonging to Bandiyappa, West by: Diamond district apartment, North by: old Airport road , South by: Remaining portion of Vinay Kumar. **Owner of the property: Mr. P Roshan. Co-ordinates of the site: Latitude: 12.960222 Longitude: 77.644278.**	**Rs. 121720680.40/- as on 10.02.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.**	**a) ₹. 445.05 b) ₹. 44.50 c) ₹.1.00**	**28.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
			Symbolic Possession		

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 11.02.2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Syndicate Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 05.03.2025

Last date of EMD : 04.03.2025

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **05.03.2025 at 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **04.03.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1.M/S GOKUL DAIRY PRODUCTS** Sy No.240 No 157, Maddur Road,Gottigere, Kunigal Dist Tumkur, Karnataka,572130. **2. Sri Krishnamurthy K N 3. Sri Ranganath K N** 2314/3126,Vanambaadi Colony Kunigal, Dist Tumkur Karnataka 572130. **4.Mrs Gayathri K.R 5.Mrs. K Supriya All Are At: 2, 4,5** 176 Sri Krishna 5Th main A Sector Yelahanka,New Town Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064.	Residential Vacant Site Khatha No 2091/2570(Old no-2570/5079),2092/2571(Old no2571/5080),2094/2578 (Old No - 2578/5087), 2096/2579 (Old No-2579/5088) situated at Kunigal town near Housing board colony and property is in the name of K N Krishna Murthy S/o K R Narayanappa.Total extent of 4 site is 5220 Sq ft. Boundaries:**East**: property be to Sarawathi bai, **West**: property belong to K N ranganath, **North**: property belong to K R Gayathri , **South**: Road **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 130157.4N Longitude- 7703569E**	**Rs. 21,17,61,454.13/-** as on **10.02.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon	**a) ₹ 234.90 b) ₹ 23.49 c) ₹ 1.00**	**28.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		Residential vacant site Situated at Khata no 2142/2580 (Old no 2580/5089) Kunigal Town, Municipal council, near KHB colony and property in the name of partner K R Gayathri W/o K N Krishna Murthy.Total extent of land is 6120 Sq ft.Boundaries:**East**:property belong to Sarawathi bai, **West**: property belong to K N Balaji Rao, **North**: Lake Yard , **South**: Road and property belong to K N Krishnamurthy. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 130133.3N Longitude- 770206.4E**		**a) ₹ 203.79 b) ₹ 20.37 c) ₹ 1.00**	
		Residential vacant site Khatha No 797/738 (Old No – 738/1368) situated at ward no - 9, 3rd cross, madduru road Kunigal town Tumkur Dist. And property is in the name of partner K S Ragnath S/o K R Narayanappa.Total extent of site is 2894 Sq ft. East: Kodadarama Shetty house, West Mukbul and Ahmed's House, North :road, South:Road. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 130123.8N Longitude- 770128.5E**		**a) ₹ 97.67 b) ₹ 9.76 c) ₹ 1.00**	
		Converted land site Sy.No.240/2, Old 240, Khata No.184/211 Old Khata No.240/2 measuring 2 acres 7 guntas plus 7 guntas of Kharab in all measuring 2 acre and 14 guntas within the limits of Beguru Village Panchayat, Gottigere Village, Hutrigere Village, Hutridurga Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur Dt., bounded by : East: Property of Shafiullah Khan, West : Road, North: Ansarulla Khan; South: Land of Abdul Azeez and Fiaz Khan,Valuation at time of sanction ₹.691.24. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 130157.4N Longitude-770356.9E**		**a) ₹ 458.93 b) ₹ 45.89 c) ₹ 1.00**	
2.	**1. M/s Tidewater shipping Private Limited** Cunningham Classic, No. 104, 22, Cunningham Road ,Bangaluru-560052. **2. Sri Subhash Menon S/o Sri Gopal Menon 3.Smt. Sunithi s Menon W/o Sri Subhash Menon 4.Sri Aditya Menon S/o Sri Subash Menon All Are At:2,3,4** Flat No.1, C2 II Floor, Regency Place No.7, Rechmond Road, Bangalore-560002.	Residential property situated at Flat no. 104, Municipal No. 22/5 PID No.78/62/22/5 On The First Floor of Building Known as " Cunningham Classic" Constructed on Property No. 22 (Old No.25), Ward No.78, Sampangi Ramaswamy Temple, Street Cunninghum Road, Bangalore. With super Built up area 578.65 Sq.ft .East By : Private Property, West By: Cunninghum Road, North By: Cunningham Crescent ,South By: Private Property.Owner of the Property : Sri Subhash Menon & Smt. Sunithi Menon. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.983639 Longitude- 77.598278**	**Rs. 3,73,59,966.47/-** as on **10.02.2025** with further interest and cost thereon.	**a) ₹ 98.11 b) ₹ 9.81 c) ₹ 1.00**	**28.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 12.02.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer,
Canara Bank

AI can make drug-testing precise, and relevant to human biology

Regulators and the pharmaceutical industry have traditionally banked on animal models' response to various compounds to assess whether a drug can proceed to human clinical trials. But there is a growing body of work suggesting we need to improve the quality of data available at this stage

Surat Parvatam
Arvind Ramanathan

The responses of humans belonging to different populations around the world to drugs and diseases vary in ways that can't be captured in the responses of a homogenous, lab-bred animal population. PIXABAY

On January 6, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed draft guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assess the safety and effectiveness of drugs.

The influential body has said that in the last decade, the number of submissions from drugmakers that include an AI or machine-learning component has seen an exponential rise. There was only one such submission per year in 2016 and 2017, but in the next two years it tripled; in 2021, the FDA reported a remarkable 10-fold increase on the previous year alone with 132 submissions, including an AI and/or machine-learning component.

Drug development pitfalls

It takes nearly 10 years and over a billion dollars to develop a drug using conventional (animal-based) processes, which also have a success rate of only 14%. Emerging technologies like AI provide opportunities for us to catalyse and improve the human-relevant drug-development pipeline.

For example, rats can eliminate some drugs from their bodies much faster than humans can, which means that for the same dose level, humans would be exposed to the drug for a longer duration. As a result, the data for a compound obtained by testing with rats will have to be adjusted for this skew.

The responses of humans belonging to different populations around the world to drugs and diseases also vary according to age, sex, preexisting medical conditions, and genetic variabilities, among other factors. It's often difficult to predict this range of responses from a homogenous, lab-bred animal population.

Inputs to predictivity

Researchers today use AI across the breadth of the drug development cycle.

In the discovery phase, researchers comb through databases with thousands of compounds to select a few hundred promising candidates for a particular use case. Then they test these compounds on animals during preclinical research. The data for compounds that produce encouraging results in animal models are submitted to drug regulators for permission to conduct human clinical trials.

The compounds found to be safe and effective in these clinical trials – conducted in three phases depending on the requirement – are then released into the market following the Drug Controller-General's approval. In the post-marketing stage, the drug manufacturer monitors the drug's effects on the population, under an obligation to report adverse effects.

There are now AI tools that can digest data from a human adult about how their body absorbs, distributes, and eliminates a drug and based on that predict the response of vulnerable populations, such as children, whose participation in clinical trials raises thorny ethical and technical issues.

Another pain point in drug development that AI could surmount is predicting whether a drug could have unintended effects. In December 2024, researchers from the U.K. reported in the journal *Toxicological Sciences* a "safety toolbox" comprising a group of computational models that could predict the undesirable side effects of a chemical compound on the entire body or on specific organs the compound isn't designed to target.

This framework involves integrating multiple types of data, such as the level and manner of exposure to the substance (topical, oral, etc.), its structural properties, and any information about its chemical properties.

Where do AI models fall short?

Despite the potential to overcome the barriers of conventional testing, AI comes with its own challenges. In particular, the reliability of data analysis performed by an AI tool depends on the quality of the data the model is trained with.

Participants at an FDA-sponsored workshop at Duke University in the U.S. in 2022 used the adage "garbage in, garbage out" to describe this problem. The use of biased and/or under-representative data of a target population will also compromise the output.

Another challenge is transparency. The inner workings of most AI models in use are not open to independent scrutiny, nor is the data used to train them easily accessible, so the models' performance can't be assessed as required.

FDA's draft guidelines

The FDA has been open to the idea of using AI and its draft guidelines to present a stepwise framework to assess models' credibility. The text emphasises the importance of identifying questions of interest, the context for each question, and how a model will help address it. This is because a model developed to identify the risk of one adverse reaction to one drug based on previous clinical trials may not be equally good at identifying the risk of other reactions and/or to other drugs.

> AI tools can digest data about how a human body absorbs, distributes, and eliminates a drug and predict the response of vulnerable populations, such as children, whose participation in clinical trials raises thorny ethical and technical issues

The guidelines also stress the importance of assessing the risk AI models may pose. If a model concludes a patient is at low risk for an adverse reaction to a drug, an incorrect prediction could have life-threatening implications. Identifying the level of this risk is another parameter of importance. Axiomatically, improving the quality and quantity of data used to train the AI model and the identification of possible biases will strengthen the model's integrity and value.

AI models can be self-learning, their outputs can change based on new inputs, and they can constantly adapt without human intervention. In response, the FDA framework recognises a need to continuously monitor and provide detailed maintenance plans across the lifecycle of these models. Given the currently vigorous AI landscape, the draft guidelines encourage the industry to engage with the FDA to discuss and design appropriate ways to assess their AI models.

The guidelines focus on the use of AI in the preclinical stage in particular, where it is critical to understand if a compound of interest is safe enough to be approved for human clinical trials.

Regulators and the pharmaceutical industry have traditionally banked on animal models' response to the compounds for this assessment. But there is a growing body of work suggesting we need to improve the quality of data available at this stage as well as reduce animal suffering.

From guidelines to adoption

The European Medicines Agency and the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (a.k.a. ICH) have released similar documents on the use of AI in drug development processes. But the FDA guidelines are notable because they focus on the use of AI to support decisions regarding the safety and effectiveness of a drug before starting human clinical trials.

In 2023, India passed the New Drugs and Clinical Trials (Amendment) Rules 2023. It allowed data generated by advanced computational models to be used to assess the safety and efficacy of new drugs, freeing researchers from relying on animal trials alone.

That said, guidelines issued by regulators can help harmonise (i) government policy, (ii) manufacturers' expectations and compliance burden, (iii) researchers' strategy, and (iv) consumer safety.

In effect, the guidelines serve as a fixed point in the shifting AI space, an anchor where all stakeholders can pause to take stock together, before making the next decision.

(Surat Parvatam is a senior strategist (research and regulatory science) at Humane Society International India. Arvind Ramanathan is head of research and associate professor, DBT-inStem. suratsaravanan@gmail.com, arvind@instem.res.in)

NASA's astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams inside the International Space Station's Harmony module. AFP

NASA looks set to return Starliner astronauts days sooner

Reuters

NASA on Tuesday swapped out the astronaut capsule it plans to use for an upcoming routine flight to the International Space Station, a scheduling move that will allow a slightly earlier return for two Starliner astronauts who have been on the station far longer than expected.

The U.S. space agency said mission management teams opted to use a previously flown SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule for its Crew-10 mission to the space station, instead of a new SpaceX capsule whose production it said has been delayed.

The decision moves up the Crew-10 launch to March 12, from the previous target of March 25. NASA said it would still need to do a flight readiness assessment of the previously flown Crew Dragon capsule, which is named Endeavor and has been used on three previous missions.

The return of two astronauts, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, who flew to the International Space Station on Boeing's faulty Starliner capsule last summer, has hinged on the arrival of the Crew-10's four-person crew in order to keep the station's American contingent staffed at normal levels.

The decision follows President Donald Trump's abrupt demand to SpaceX CEO Elon Musk last month to bring Wilmore and Williams back to Earth "as soon as possible," pleading for an end to their mission that in large part had already been decided on last year.

After Trump's demand, NASA affirmed its plan to bring home the astronauts, saying it would do so "as soon as practical." In its statement on Tuesday, the agency did not say its decision to

The return of Wilmore and Williams has hinged on the arrival of Crew-10's four-person crew in order to keep the station's American contingent staffed at normal levels

change the Crew-10 capsule was made to bring the Starliner crew home early.

"Human spaceflight is full of unexpected challenges," NASA's Commercial Crew Program head Steve Stich said in a statement, praising SpaceX for its flexibility.

Trump's call was an unusual intervention by a president into NASA's meticulously arranged ISS schedule and foisted Wilmore and Williams into an unlikely political spotlight.

Trump had blamed his predecessor Joe Biden for the astronaut's situation, though Biden had no involvement in the program. Musk, publicly accepting Trump's demand, also blamed Biden despite his space company's work with NASA to solve a spaceflight dilemma widely acknowledged to be caused by Boeing.

The spacecraft swap affects SpaceX's planned Fram2 private astronaut mission, which was expected to use the Endeavor capsule sometime this year for a polar-orbiting mission.

"We've lost the South Pole in the daylight," the mission's commander, Maltese crypto entrepreneur Chun Wang, wrote on X with a sad face emoji, replying to rumors about the Crew-10 decision. The mission will use a different Crew Dragon in SpaceX's fleet.

The Crew-10 decision is also expected to impact Axiom's planned Crew Dragon mission where it will fly government astronauts from India, Poland, and Hungary. Houston-based Axiom, which arranges private and government astronaut missions using Crew Dragon, did not immediately return a request for comment.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Unusual rivers around the world

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
The Shanay-timpishka is a tributary in Peru for the Ucayali river. It's the world's largest known thermal river: the water in a 6-km long portion of its lower reaches has a temperature of around 90° C. Which natural source of thermal energy keeps it nearly boiling?

QUESTION 2
The Amazon Basin's better-known drainage system is the river of the same name. It has a second system in the form of a subterranean slow-flowing aquifer around 4 km deep and 6 km long. Its path is also roughly the same as the Amazon river aboveground. Name the aquifer.

QUESTION 3
The Qiantang River in China is 459-km long and drains into the East China Sea, through Hangzhou Bay. At the river's mouth, the incoming tide is so forceful that it pushes up the river's current there and flows inward at around 40 km/hr, creating a surfer's paradise. What is this phenomenon called?

QUESTION 4
The Daldykan River in Russia's Krasnoyarsk Krai is a tributary of the Ambarnaya River. It's only 29 km long but has become infamous for its blood-red colour — the result of being polluted with the element _____ dumped by a smelting facility nearby. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5
X is the longest river in Antarctica at just 32 km. It flows only during the summer — but it's really unusual because, unlike most rivers of the world, it flows inward, towards Lake Vanda. Name X.

Answers to February 11 questions:
1. Element whose presence makes tanzanite blue – **Ans: Vanadium**
2. Element rarely found together with zirconium in minerals – **Ans: Boron**
3. Mineral valued in China and formed in subduction zones – **Ans: Jadeite**
4. Breccia mineral found in Dhofar 280 meteorite – **Ans: Hapkeite**
5. Process in which radioactivity weathers crystals – **Ans: Metamictisation**

Visual: **Jadarite**

First contact: ViswanadhaRao Batchu | K.N. Viswanathan | Dalbeer Singh | Anmol Agrawal | Joe V.R.

Visual: Name this river in Colombia whose riverbed changes colour through yellow, green, black, red, even blue from July to November. ASTROMARIO (CC BY-SA 3.0)

THURSDAY
February 13, 2025

BENGALURU
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Impersonation: Case booked against unknown person

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered a case against an unknown person who posing as a Lokayukta officer was allegedly calling government officials, threatening them with disproportionate cases, and demanding money to drop the charges.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR under Sections 204 (personating a public servant), 308 (extortion), and 319 (cheating by personation) under BNS.

A few officials approached the Lokayukta office to cross-check.

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Metro work at HSR Layout causes traffic congestion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Namma Metro work by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, involving the sliding of a girder at 14th Main, HSR Layout, caused severe traffic congestion across multiple areas on Wednesday.

Commuters were advised to use alternate routes as traffic police diverted outgoing vehicles toward Silk Board via 19th Main. The closure led to heavy traffic jams in BTM Layout, Central Silk Board, and Ragigudda, with the Electronics City flyover approach towards Silk Board witnessing a gridlock.

Traffic crawls along the main road towards the HSR flyover on Outer Ring Road on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pradeep R., who was stuck near BTM Layout, said, "It took me nearly 40 minutes just to move a few hundred metres. The diversions have made things worse, and there is no clear signage to guide drivers." Another commuter, Shruthi M., said, "The authorities should have provided warnings in advance so people could have planned."

The City Traffic Police officials assured that they had made alternative arrangements to ease the congestion. "We have diverted outgoing traffic toward Silk Board via 19th Main and are constantly monitoring the situation," a traffic police official said.

Traffic police have advised all commuters on the Outer Ring Road traveling from Marathahalli towards Iblur and Silk Board flyover to take alternative routes due to emergency work, though no deadline was announced. Motorists traveling from Iblur towards Silk Board or Hosur have been advised to take the following alternative routes: Take a left at 19th Main towards 17th Cross, HSR Layout, then proceed via 5th Main to reach Silk Board. Alternatively, take a left at 6th Main, travel towards MCHS Colony, and reach Hosur Road.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Death toll in the 2024 crackdown on protests in Bangladesh

1,400 The figure was estimated by the UN human rights office. In a new report, it stated that security and intelligence services "systematically engaged" in rights violations that could amount to crimes against humanity. AP

Degraded forest land identified for Green Credit Programme

57,700 in hectares. Seventeen States have so far set aside degraded forest land for tree plantation under the Green Credit Programme. It rewards environmental actions by individuals, communities and the private sector. PTI

Passenger traffic through European airports' increases

2.5 In billion. European airports welcomed more passengers last year than in 2019, surpassing pre-COVID levels for the first time since the pandemic, industry figures showed on Wednesday. Passenger traffic reached 2.5 billion in 2024, up 7.4% from the previous year. AFP

Israel's first sale in government bonds to the U.S.

5 in $ billion. Israel has sold this amount in dollar-denominated government bonds in international markets to bring down its budget deficit and finance the costs of the war. In the first debt sale of 2025, the Finance Ministry offered two new series of five-year and 10-year government bonds. PTI

India's imports of palm oil dip to a 13-year low, says SEA

65 in per cent. India's palm oil imports dipped as buyers shifted to cheaper soybean oil, industry body Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) said. Vegetable oil imports dropped to 10.49 lakh tonnes from 12 lakh tonnes a year earlier. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Should convicted persons contest elections?

What does the Representation of the People Act, 1951 stipulate with respect to electoral candidates convicted of criminal offences? What are the various judgments of the Supreme Court which favour the decriminalisation of politics? What is the case for a lifetime ban on convicted individuals standing for office?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

The Supreme Court is hearing petitions filed by Ashwin Upadhyay and others, seeking a life time ban on convicted persons from contesting elections.

What are the legal provisions?

Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951), provides for the disqualification of a person convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years. Such a person is disqualified from contesting elections for a further period of six years from the date of release. Section 8(1) further stipulates that a person convicted under criminal laws for heinous crimes like rape; the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) act for preaching or practice of untouchability; UAPA for unlawful association; Prevention of Corruption Act etc., will be disqualified irrespective of the period of their sentence and six years after release.

What were past decisions?

The Supreme Court has delivered notable judgments in favour of the decriminalisation of politics. In the *Association for Democratic Reforms* (ADR) case (2002), it mandated the disclosure of criminal records of all candidates contesting elections. In the *CEC vs Jan Chaukidar* case (2013), it upheld the creative interpretation of the provisions of the RP Act, 1951 by the Patna High Court. One of the qualifications as per the act to contest elections is that a person should be an 'elector.' Section 62(5) stipulates that a person in jail is not eligible to vote in elections. The court interpreted that persons who are under trial prisoners, therefore cease to be 'electors' and hence not qualified to contest elections. However, the Parliament amended the act in 2013 to overturn this judgment

GETTY IMAGES

allowing under trial prisoners to contest elections. In *Lily Thomas* (2013), the court struck down section 8(4) of the RP Act, 1951, that allowed a sitting legislator to continue as a member even after being convicted if they filed an appeal, as unconstitutional and against political justice. After this judgment, a sitting legislator is disqualified immediately after the sentencing for a conviction.

It is pertinent to note that Section 11 of the RP Act, 1951 provides that the Election Commission (EC) may remove any disqualification or reduce the period of disqualification of a convicted person. It utilised this power in September 2019, to reduce the disqualification period of Prem Singh Tamang, incumbent Chief Minister of Sikkim, from six years to 13 months which allowed him to contest and win a byelection.

It was a questionable decision of the EC to have reduced the disqualification period of a person convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act, considering its various recommendations to curb criminalisation of politics.

What is the current petition?

The current petition seeks a life time ban on convicted persons from contesting elections. The petitioners argue that if a convicted person is not eligible for even a junior-grade government job, how could they become law makers six years after serving their sentence. However, the Central government in an affidavit filed before the court in 2020 had mentioned that MPs and MLAs are not bound by any 'service conditions' unlike government servants, and hence the present disqualification period of six years after serving the sentence is adequate.

The Supreme Court has again sought the response of the Central government and the EC on the current petition.

What can be the way forward?

A report by ADR states that 251 (46%) of the 543 elected MPs in 2024, have criminal cases against them, and 171 (31%) face serious criminal charges including rape, murder, attempt to murder and kidnapping. It added that chances of winning for a candidate with a criminal background was 15.4% as against just 4.4% for a candidate with a clean background. The Law Commission in 1999 and 2014, and the EC on various occasions have highlighted the need to curb the criminalisation of politics. They have recommended that even persons against whom charges are framed by a competent court for an offence that entails punishment of more than five years should not be allowed to contest elections.

However, there has been no consensus on this recommendation amongst political parties considering the risk of its misuse. As regards the current petition, there may be convictions that do not involve moral turpitude for which permanent disqualification would be inappropriate and disproportionate. With respect to convictions for heinous crimes and under statutes like the Prevention of Corruption Act, there may be a case for life time disqualification as it is directly linked with probity in public life.

Meanwhile, the powers vested with the EC for reducing or removing the period of disqualification of a convicted person should be reviewed by the court for its constitutional validity.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951), provides for the disqualification of a person convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years.
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What is contributing to the downturn in Indian markets?

How are U.S. President Donald Trump's recent directives affecting Indian stock markets? What is the relationship between bond yields and stock markets? Will the rupee strengthen?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

For the sixth consecutive day, BSE Sensex closed lower on Wednesday reflective of a major sell-off among foreign institutional investors and portfolio investors (FIIs/FPIs), mixed earnings and apprehensions about the tightening of the (imports') tariff regime in the U.S.

Why is Trump affecting markets?

On Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump issued directives to restore tariff on steel and elevate the tariff on aluminium to 25%. The White House held these were to protect America's industries which "have been harmed by unfair trade practices and global excess capacity".

However, the directive was not well received in the Indian markets. This is primarily due to apprehensions about a potential dumping of Asian exports to India, potentially culminating into downward revision of prices and increased competition. Indian steel manufacturers are already amidst a revision in steel prices. For perspective, Indian manufacturer JSW Steel stated in its Q3 earnings about its Net Smelting Return (NSR) in India falling by close to ₹1,800 compared to the preceding quarter. Additionally, with respect to the alleged dumping, India's Directorate General for Trade Remedies (DGTR) has an ongoing investigation into the imports of 'non-alloy and alloy steel flat products'.

Why is foreign money moving away?

FIIs and FPIs have been increasingly moving towards U.S. bonds, seeking a haven away from the current modest Indian markets with potentially lesser returns. According to Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research at HDFC Securities, the current situation in the market emanates from tepid domestic earnings growth, elevated valuations in mid and small cap segments, and persistent inflation exceeding the RBI's lower threshold of 4%, and uncertainty around trade and tariffs. It is imperative to note here that bond yield and stock markets have an inverse relationship. This is because both vie for investor funds, aspiring to outdo the other by offering more returns. Therefore, when U.S. bond yield rises, foreign investors transit from Indian equities to U.S. bonds. Domestic, economic and political certainty alongside monetary policies are other contributing factors. All in all, the entire paradigm contributes to making the dollar stronger and the rupee weaker because of the flow of money. V.K. Vijaykumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial observed that while the downturn in markets has been because of a combination of factors, the major among them has been the "relentless FII selling". He told *The Hindu* about FIIs having sold in the cash market every day, except for two days, so far this year – totalling to ₹93,907 crore. He further noted that while domestic institutional investors have been compensating for the FII outflows, "market sentiments have been impacted." Apurva Sheth, Head of Market Perspectives & Research at SAMCO Securities pointed out that dollar denominated returns of Indian equities "have not been impressive at all".

Mid and small caps stocks are also experiencing a correction due to the sell-off spree.

What is outlook for the near-term?

Tightening of trade policies with the probability of a trade war under Trump, geopolitical tensions and slowing global growth could influence markets going forward. According to Mr. Vijaykumar, "FIIs will return to India, only the timing is uncertain." He further adds, "Indications of a growth and earnings recovery in India and dollar decline – we do not know when it will happen, will make FIIs buyers in India." Additionally, Mr. Vakil holds that deep uncertainty about President Trump's tariffs plans may keep investors on the "defensive". As for the outflow, he contends SIP flows are likely to remain strong and should be able to absorb bulk of the selling.

THE GIST

- On Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump issued directives to restore tariff on steel and elevate the tariff on aluminium to 25%.
- FIIs and FPIs have been increasingly moving towards U.S. bonds, seeking a haven away from the current modest Indian markets with potentially lesser returns.
- Tightening of trade policies with the probability of a trade war under the Trump administration, geopolitical tensions and slowing global growth could influence markets going forward.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Book of Editorials 2024

captures what made news in the year that just passed, with a selection of editorials that were published in the editorial pages of India's national newspaper.

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Minor girl found dead at Kadugodi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 15-year-old girl was found dead in her apartment complex in Kadugodi on Wednesday after being reprimanded by her mother to focus on studies.

The deceased was identified as Avantika Chaurasia, a class 10 student at a prominent CBSE school in Whitefield.

The incident in Assetz Marq apartment in Kadugodi was reported to the police around 11.30 a.m.

The family is from Madhya Pradesh and she is the only child. Her father is a software engineer and her mother a homemaker

An investigation revealed that Avantika's class 10 board exams were to begin on February 15. Her mother allegedly found her using her phone and reprimanded her, asking her to focus on studies and limit her mobile phone usage.

Miffed over this, she locked the room from inside and ended her life, said the police. Security guards found the girl dead on the ground floor and sounded an alert before informing the police .

The jurisdictional Kadugodi police shifted the body for post-mortem after conducting spot inspection.

A case of unnatural death has been registered and further investigation is on, Shivakumar Gunare, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield), said.

Engineer ends life

A 32-year-old software engineer was found dead at his flat in Marathahalli recently. The deceased was identified as Abhinav Singh. He had joined work at an IT firm a week ago.

The police said that Abhinav has gone to have dinner with his friend and returned to his flat, where he was later found dead.

Based on a complaint by his brother, the Marathahalli police have registered a case of unnatural death. The police are verifying his mobile phone records and are also questioning his friends and family members to ascertain the cause of death.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Man held for trying to kill wife by forcing her to gulp down glue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Inquiries revealed the acused would come home drunk and fight with the victim accusing her of having an affair

The Hoysala patrolling team of Madanayakanahalli police rescued a 30-year-old woman after her husband allegedly tried to kill her by forcing her to gulp down glue over a domestic row recently.

The victim Manjula was found lying unconscious outside her house when the Hoysala team reached the spot after getting an alert from neighbours that the couple were fighting.

Manjula was rushed to a hospital and the doctor after examination confirmed that she was forced to consume glue and was also strangled in an attempt to kill her.

She was admitted in the ICU and was recovering. Based on a complaint filed by constable Nagesh from the patrolling team, the police tracked down the accused Siddalingaswamy on Wednesday and arrested him.

Inquiries revealed that Siddalingaswamy used to come home drunk and fight with Manjula accusing her of an affair. On the day of the incident, the couple had a fight and in a fit of rage, he allegedly forced her to drink the glue and even strangled her, said the police.

The accused has been booked under varoius sections of the BNS for further investigation.

'Work-from-car': IT firm employee booked for using laptop while driving on Airport Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst raging debates over work from home versus work from office and a healthy work-life balance, a video recording of a woman driving on the busy Airport Road and appearing to be attending to official work on her laptop, landed her in trouble with the police.

The Bengaluru North Division Traffic Police on Wednesday tracked down the IT employee and booked her for dangerous driving and fined her ₹1,000.

The incident occurred on Monday when some passers-by noticed the unusual sight of the woman driving on the busy road with her laptop open and recorded a video along with the registration number of the car and sent it to the social media account of the traffic police seeking action. Based on a complaint, the traffic police tracked down the accused woman to her relative's house where she was allegedly hiding and seized her car, apart from booking her and slapping a penalty on her.

The incident attracted all kinds of reactions from the public on X (formerly Twitter), including some about the ongoing debates over work timings and work modes. While some sought to know which company she worked for, Nirka@Nirka01 said: "Her company name should be revealed so that other job aspirants should avoid applying there."

SneAru@aru_sne added: "That's the condition of an IT person in India,"

"We have advised people to behave on roads and follow traffic rules to ensure the safety of other motorists," Siri Gowri, DCP, Traffic, North Division, said.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (February 13, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Should convicted persons be allowed to contest elections? **newsth.live/electionsconvictexo**
- AI can make drug-testing more precise, relevant to human biology **newsth.live/aidrugtesting**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas my clients **1) Sri. PRADEEPA SRINGERE SUBHASH** S/o Smt. Geetha Lakshmi Aged about 47 Years and **2) Smt. MOHAN DEEPA DAVANUM** W/o Sri. Pradeepa Sringere Subhash Aged about 43 Years, Both are Residing at No. 4, `THAYI NILAYA' 11th Cross, Sarakki, J.P. Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore-560078, both are intending to purchase the under mentioned property hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property' from **Smt. SHRUTHI K.J.** W/o Sri. Panduranga Vittal N.R. Aged about 36 Years, Residing at No. 43/9, 5th Cross, 5th Block, Kamakya Layout 3rd Phase, Behind Kamakya Theatre, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085, who claims to be the legal heirs and absolute owners of the 'Schedule Property'. Any other person/s who have any kind of right, claims, interest, over the 'Schedule Property' are herewith called upon to file their claims before the undersigned within **Seven (07) days** from the date of publication of their notice 'Kannada and English' News Paper with the relevant and concerned documents. If no such claim is filed within the given time my client shall proceed and purchase the 'Schedule Property' as 'no claims subsisting'.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Immovable Property Bearing No.225 in the layout formed by the Vittalnagar House Building Co-Operative Society Limited., Bangalore out of Survey No. 15 situated at Bikashipura Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Now coming under the purview of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and has assigned the property as Municipal BBMP No 488/15/255/494A, Bikashipura, Bangalore BBMP Ward No.197, with New PID No.197-W0205-65, measuring East to West on the Northern Side : 40-0 (Forty feet), on the Southern Side : 40-0 (Forty feet and North to South on the Eastern Side : 30-0 (Thirty feet), on the Western Side : 30-0 (Thirty feet) in all measuring 133.33 Sq. years, along with a building thereon, and bounded on the: **East by :** Private Property, **West by:** Road, **North by :** Property bearing No.226,

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CENTRAL RAILWAY
Electrical Department
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No**.: SUR/TD/T/2024/16 **Name of Work** :- Electrical TRD portion work in connection with Provision of safety fencing (ACB & Fixed knot fencing) along the track - 1) CPWI/DUD from SUR-AKOR 2) CPWI/DUD from AKOR-DUD 3) CPWI/KLBG Part-1 (DUD-HHD) 4) CPWI/KLBG Part-2 (HHD-HQR) 5) CPWI/SDB (Re-invitation). **Estimated cost** :- ₹ 1,29,85,304.22/-, **Bid Security** :- ₹ 2,14,900/- **Completion Period** :- 12 months, **Validity of offer** :- 60 Days, **Date & time of tender closing on website** :- 11/03/2025 at 15:00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)
SUN 59
अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

CENTRAL RAILWAY
Electrical Department
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No**.: SUR/TD/T/2024/14R **Name of Work** :- Electrical TRD portion work in connection with Provision of safety fencing (ACB & Fixed knot fencing) along the track - 1) from km 270 to km 293.125 in DD-SUR Section, 2) from km 293.125 to km 316.25 in DD-SUR Section, 3) under CPWI/JEUR from PRWD-JH, 4) under CPWI/KWV(N) from JH-KWV, 5) under CPWI/KWV(S) KWV-WKA Part-1, 6) under CPWI/KWV(S) WKA-MO Part-2 and 7) under CPWI/SUR(N). (Re-invitation). **Estimated cost** :- ₹ 1,64,14,227.10/-, **Bid Security** :- ₹ 2,32,100/- **Completion Period** :- 12 months, **Validity of offer** :- 60 Days, **Date & time of tender closing on website** :- 10/03/2025 at 15:00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)
SUN 58
अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. 198 to 202-24-25
No. 580-W/Reconditioning/CMS Xing/HMH-I/2024 Dated- 07.02.2025

Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15.00 hours on 04.03.2025 as below:- **Tender No. :** 198 **Name of Work with its Location :** Reconditioning of CMS xing using Robotic Welding Machine under ADEN/Hanumangarh-I (For 02 years **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 3529425.50 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 70600.00 **Tender No. :** 199 **Name of Work with its Location :** Fabrication of Glued joint under ADEN/Hanumangarh-I (For 02 years) **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 1326253.60 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 26500.00 **Tender No. :** 200 **Name of Work with its Location :** Reconditioning of CMS xing using Robotic Welding Machine on Sarupsar-Sri Ganganagar-Hanumangarh-Gogameri Section under ADEN/Hanumangarh-II (For 02 years) **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 3728266.37 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 74600.00 **Tender No. :** 201 **Name of Work with its Location :** Reconditioning of Tongue rail, SEJ, etc. on Raman-Bathinda-Suratgarh section and Sarupsar- Sri Ganganagar-Hanumangarh-Gogameri section under ADEN/Hanumangarh-II (For 02 years) **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 1454748.71 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 29100.00 **Tender No. :** 202 **Name of Work with its Location :** Soft upgradation of Bhattu railway station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme under ADEN/Sirsa. **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 100325328.66 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 651600.00 **Note :** Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

177-CR/25
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CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2024-2025-49
Date: 07.02.2025

DRM (S&T)`s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway`s e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in inform the capable, reputed firms/ Contractors for the following works:- **Name of work with its locality** : Supply, Installation Shifting of telecom assets at platform / concourse / station premises in connection with provision of high level platform and COP works being executed on Solapur division of Central Railway. **Tender No.** – SUR-N-T 2024-2025-49, **Cost of work** - Rs.67,05,327.42/-, **Cost of the tender form** - NIL, **Earnest money to be deposited** - Rs. 1,34,100.00/-, **Completion period of the work** - 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender on www.ireps.gov.in** : 03.03.2025 at 15.30 Hrs. The details are available in IREPS website. Corrigendum/ amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with www.ireps.gov.in. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager S&T Branch
SUN 55
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e-mail: tmchiriyur@yahoo.in website: www.hiriyurcity.mrc.gov.in
No:CMC/HYR/TS/MF/TEND.CR:19/2024-25 Date:12/02/2025

(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Short term and Short & Full termTender Notification)

(Tenders invited as per provisions of Standard Tender Document K.W-1, K.W-2& K.W-3)

Tenders are invited from qualified Civil/Electrical Contractors/Agencies registered with Public Works Department under HiriyurNagarsabhaVaptiunder Enterprise Fund and 2019-20 to 2022-23rd SFC Savings amount Grants under the Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 on behalf of the Governor of the State of Karnataka. Apply online through Karnataka Public Procurement website http://kppp.karantaka.gov.in.(GST will be paid separately to Tendered amount)

Details of Works	Reservation	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs.)	Last Date to submit Tender (Evening 5 o'Clock)	Opening of Tenders (Evening 5:15)
DMA/2024-25/BD/W_INDENT34045/Call-2	Others	76.50	129050.00	03/03/2025	04/03/2025
DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36040	ST	6.80	7150.00	20/02/2025	21/02/2025
DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT36041	SC	21.10	25000.00	20/02/2025	21/02/2025
DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36045	Catogary 2A	10.00	10570.00	20/02/2025	21/02/2025
DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36068	Others	19.12	40419.00	20/02/2025	21/02/2025
DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT36070	Others	18.20	38493.00	20/02/2025	21/02/2025
DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36105	Catogary 1	2.49	2500.00	20/02/2025	21/02/2025

For further details the Engineers in the Municipal Technical Department may be contacted

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/572/2024-25

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner,
City Municipal Council, Hiriyuru.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)
BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	East-1	BWSSB/EE(EAST)-1/ PB/3973/2024-25 Dt: 11/02/2025	Rs.76,20,587/- / Rs.1,52,500/-	19-02-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	21-02-2025 after 5.00 p.m.
2.		BWSSB/EE(EAST)-1/ PB/3973/2024-25 Dt: 11/02/2025	Rs.77,14,568/- / Rs.1,54,300/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(EAST)-1/ PB/2971/2024-25 Dt: 11/02/2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.54,66,167/- / Rs.1,09,400/-		
4.		BWSSB/EE(EAST)-1/ PB/2971/2024-25 Dt: 11/02/2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.66,58,681/- / Rs.1,33,200/-		
5.		BWSSB/EE(EAST)-1/ PB/2971/2024-25 Dt: 11/02/2025 (4th Call)	Rs.50,87,675/- / Rs.1,01,800/-		
6.		BWSSB/EE(EAST)-1/ PB/2971/2024-25 Dt: 11/02/2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.41,78,728/- / Rs.83,600/-		
7.		BWSSB/EE(EAST)-1/ PB/2971/2024-25 Dt: 11/02/2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.33,47,082/- / Rs.67,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4992/24-25

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-Tender)
E-tender Notice No:- 33245637A Date:- 11.02.2025

On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the Sr. DMM/DSD/NWR, Jodhpur. **1. Name of item :** Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of UTS Thermal Ticket Printers. **2. Approximate Cost of items :** RS. 8552050.00 (Rs Eighty Five Lacks Fifty Two Thousand Fifty Rupees Only) **3. Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 171040.00 (Rs. One Lacks Seventy One Thousand Forty Rupees Only.) **4. Last date and time for Submission of E-Tender Opening of E-Tender :** 28-02-25 14:25 **5. Web site from E-Tender forms can be obtained : www.ireps.gov.in 6. Address of NIT issuing Office : Officer of the Sr.DMM/DSD, NWR, Jodhpur-342001 (Rajasthan) Notice : 1.** Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. **2.** Cost of tender document & EMD online through e-transfers i.e. through payment gateway facility **3.** on the IREPS website.

178-CR/25
Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

CENTRAL RAILWAY
Electrical Department
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No**.: SUR/TD/T/2024/07R3 **Name of Work** :- Electrical TRD work in connection with Development of Latur Terminus, construction of Washing cum Pit line & Stabling line. (Re-invitation). **Estimated cost** :- ₹ 56,61,906.01/-, **Bid Security** :- ₹ 1,13,200/- **Completion Period** :- 12 months, **Validity of offer** :- 60 Days, **Date & time of tender closing on website** :- 06/03/2025 at 15:00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)
SUN 57
अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/3298/2024-25 **Date: 12.02.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORM-III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Formation of road from Gear School road to Peripheral Ring Road via Gunjur palya, Varthur** for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015 for the **width of 45.00mtrs.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Gunjuru**

Sl. No.	Sy. No. / Khata No.	Type of land: Vacant	Type of land: Built up	Nature of Land: Agriculture Converted undeveloped Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Dimension Extent	Boundaries of the land / plot: North	South	East	West	Building Details: Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor Area Ratio	Present activity on land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, individual house etc.,)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued.
1	Sy No.268/36, Khatha Sl No.4572, Municipal No.4572	Vacant Land		Converted Land	1551.00 Sqm	Remaining Portion of Sy No.268/36	Sy No.268/13	Sy No.268/7 & Sy No.284	Sy No.268/8 & Sy No.15	None	None	None	Vacant	50,000/-	Smt.Roopa W/o Sri.G.M Shivanna Alias Shivakumar, Residing at No.68, Reddygara Bidi, Gunjuru, Bangalore-560087.

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No.: ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No.: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪಿಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below.

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/-,
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. 04/SBC/25 of 31.01.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-I:** Earth work and extension of minor bridge No. 348 in connection with the work of Nidavanda - Proposed Road-1A on Rd-01 side at Nidavanda in Yesvanthpur - Sampige Road section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later. **Sub Work-II:** Track work in connection with the work of Nidavanda - Proposed Road-1A on Rd-01 side at Nidavanda in Yesvanthpur - Sampige Road section. **Sub Work-III:** Collection and supply of ballast along the cess in connection with the work of Nidavanda - Proposed Road-1A on Rd-01 side at Nidavanda in Yesvanthpur - Sampige Road section (Composite work).	Rs. 1,67,48,664
2	**Sub Work-1:** **Bengaluru - Arsikere section:** Cess repair and widening of formation at isolated locations for a length of 2.55 km from 18/250-26/900 (DN Line) and 1/600-1/800 (A line) in Sr. Sectional Engineer/PWay/Yesvantpur section. **Sub Work-2: Bengaluru - Sampige Road section:** Cess repair and widening of formation of Gollahalli - Ammasandra Up/Down line for a length of 14.95 kms at isolated locations from km 30/800-109/700 in Sr. Sectional Engineer / PWay / Tumakuru section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,74,02,749
3	**Nidavanda:** Proposed construction of S and T service building (One floor over existing station building) and extension of PF-1 for a length of 100 mtr at Nidavanda Station in connection with additional loop line of Road-1A (Composite work). Maintenance period is 12 months.	Rs. 93,71,217
4	**Bengaluru Division:** Proposed construction of Type - II quarters (12 numbers) and Type - III quarters (8 numbers) in Asst. Divisional Engineer/Yesvanthpur sub division (Composite tender). Maintenance Period is 12 months.	Rs. 6,84,34,349

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 27.02.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination/ Bengaluru
PUB/769/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ABHINAND Masur, R/a #A704, Atlantis Liberty Square, 80 feet Road, Gubbalala, Raghuvanahalli, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name to Abhinand M Masur vide affidavit dt: 05.02.2025 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore

I, VENKATALAXMI Surappachar, W/O: Muniswamacharya, R/O : Flat No–SF–06, Jnana Nivas Manipal Hospital Road, RR Nagar,Bengaluru–560098. Have Changed my Name to Lakshmi Surappachar Venkatalakshmi, Affidavit date on 12/02/25

I, LEELA Manikanta Andari Palli S/o Ramesh A, residing @ Lavanya Sweet Home, SBI Bank Near, Gandhinagar–Post, Sindhanur–Taluk, Raichur, Karnataka–584128 has changed my name as Manikanta A, for all future purposes, Sworn before Advocate & Notary H Pampanna. Date 10.02.2025

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PERSONAL

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

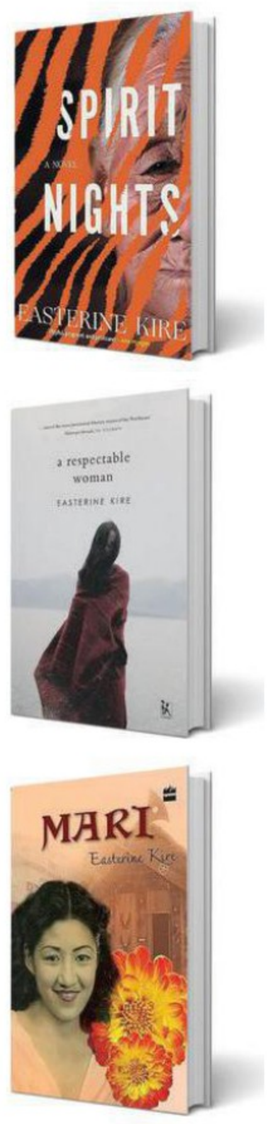
Thankyou for favours received - RVS

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Court of the 2nd Additional Sub Ordinate Judge, Thiruvananthapuram O.S No. 20 of 2018
Plaintiff: Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram 695010, represented by its Secretary.
Defendant : T R Sidhraj, aged 45 years, S/o. Ramappa, Proprietor, Raj Events, No. 1402, 1st Floor, 11th Main, 33rd Cross, Jayanagar, 4th Block, Bangaluru-560011. Take notice that you are the 2nd defendant in the above suit filed by the plaintiff and the said case is posted on **03/03/2025** for your appearance in the said court in person or through advocate at 11 AM on **03/03/2025** and file your objection/written statement if any, else the case with be decided in your absence, By order
Thiruvananthapuram (Sd/-)
Hari S Nair, Advocate of the Plaintiff

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Against the current: Konyak tribes perform at the inaugural day of the Hornbill festival in Kisama village, Kohima on December 1, 2024. RITU RAJ KONWAR



Easterine Kire: chronicler of the lives and fables of Nagas

Shunning media stereotypes of the northeast, the Sahitya Akademi-winning novelist and poet from Nagaland writes about the cultural life of her people, who refuse to be defined by conflict. Kire has also documented their oral history and spiritual world view

Radhika Santhanam

Years ago, when I asked a classmate what she was reading, she simply replied, "A book from the northeast." It was a lazy, unhelpful description. Ever heard anyone say they are reading Jerry Pinto, a "writer from the west"?

That was in 2010, but little has changed since. The northeast is still described in many everyday conversations as a homogenous region – an anthropological paradise where "strange" and "exotic" cultures thrive, and complex, ethnic conflicts play out amid natural beauty.

Easterine Kire, a novelist from Nagaland who lives in Norway, spoke of her exasperation with the broad portrayal of the region in an interview to *The Hindu* in 2019. "The media stereotype of the northeast has done so much damage that the true cultural life of the Nagas and their rights have been overlooked," she said. In her works, Kire portrays a people who refuse to be defined by conflict. "We are saying there is more [to Nagaland]," she said in an another interview to *The Hindu* in 2015. "There is great beauty, not just the breathtaking landscapes of mountains and rivers and cloud-covered villages, but the beauty of the people who live there and the stories they have to share. The spiritual world is a big part of the Naga world view and it comes naturally to me to write about it."

Writing about the spiritual

Spirit Nights (2022), which won Kire the Sahitya Akademi award in 2024, is a shining example of how the writer is a chronicler of the lives and fables of the Nagas. The novel's protagonist is Tola, a wise woman and the daughter of a seer. She is warned in a dream of impending doom. Dreams are the gateway to the spiritual world. When a taboo is breached in the spiritual world, intense, all-encompassing darkness descends on her village. Only one person, Tola's grandson Namu, can bring back light. Kire's book is inspired by the story of darkness narrated by the Rengma Naga and Chang Naga tribes. Just as the sun resuscitates a fading leaf, it is the breath of Kire's storytelling that brings an oral tale to life.

When the River Sleeps (2014), which won The Hindu Prize in 2015, is also steeped in Naga folktales and myths. A middle-aged hunter named Vile lives inside a forest. He dreams that a "heart-stone" lies on the bed of a river, which will give him expansive powers. Vile sets out on his quest, encountering fellow beings, sorceresses, and spirits on the way. The poet K. Satchidanandan described the book as "a sample of how the mythopoeic imagination can work in our times".

Kire had written elsewhere: "My generation of Nagas accept that our territories are shared between human and spirit inhabitants." These works are rooted in the folklore of Nagaland, but Kire skilfully draws out the deeper meanings of these beliefs and they are universally instructive.

Nagaland over the years

When Kire was a child, every night one of her grandparents would tell her a story. She grew up in an estate in Kohima, where trees were laden with fruit, wild flowers bloomed, and she woke up to dawn chorus. Her love for the oral tradition of storytelling, and for beauty and nature, which she infuses into her writing, likely came from these early childhood experiences.

But not all of Nagaland was peaceful and picturesque. Kire recounts how the small town of Kohima was suddenly thrust on the global map when the Japanese invaded the hills in 1944. In 1958, the draconian Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was imposed to deal with the Naga insurgency. In the 1960s and '70s, Kire recalls in interviews how the Army would patrol the streets and clamp curfews. Nagaland came to be imagined by the rest of India as a land of trouble-makers.

In her works, Kire also traces the lives of different generations to reveal the transformation of a people and a State. For the book *Mari*, which she began writing in parts at 16 and completed in 2003, she sat with her aunt Mari, gently unspooling her memories of Kohima before and during World War II. The war cleaved the history of the region: Kire says it was "remarkable" that "people have little memory of what they were doing before the war years." In *A Respectable Woman* (2019), too, she writes about the conflict: "Many of our people had not known any government other than the British. So, when they left our hills, many people felt orphaned...."

A Respectable Woman is also about another war; this time, against the Indian state. Kire says, "Even while the few educated Nagas felt that they had the right to fight for Naga sovereignty, the Indian government sent in armed police who began a reign of terror... We were no longer safe in our own homes."

Where there is war, there is always resilience. In *Mari*, Mari becomes a refugee in her own homeland and is nearly crushed by the weight of recurrent loss. She bounces back again and again, left with no other choice. As the grandmother says in *Bitter Wormwood*, "If life is hard to you, you simply harden yourself so its griefs are easier to bear."

Kire's protagonists are often women but they are not all "strong women", which makes them relatable. Women, like men, contribute to maintaining the patriarchal order (*A Terrible Matriarchy*). They show their vulnerabilities and express their fears (*Spirit Nights*). Kire does not romanticise their fights and the journeys of their survival (*Mari*). Women assert their agency through micro-feminist acts (*A Respectable Woman*). They are ordinary women who often find themselves grappling with extraordinary circumstances.

Kire's style is to write crisp, short, unadorned sentences and narrate unsettling parables, which reflect her love for allegories. By staying close to their roots, writers like Temsula Ao paved the way for Easterine Kire who is making the road easier for voices of the next generation like Avinuo Kire and others. If works by writers such as Kire find their way into classrooms across India, there may be greater understanding of regional literature from the States of the northeast; stories which encapsulate the tragedies, aspirations, and cultures of a people who have for too long been typecast, and which have been systemically erased from our hegemonic imagination of the nation.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy 2025 is scheduled to start from next week. Here is a quiz on the tournament

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
What was the tournament formerly called?

QUESTION 2
Which is the format played in the tournament?

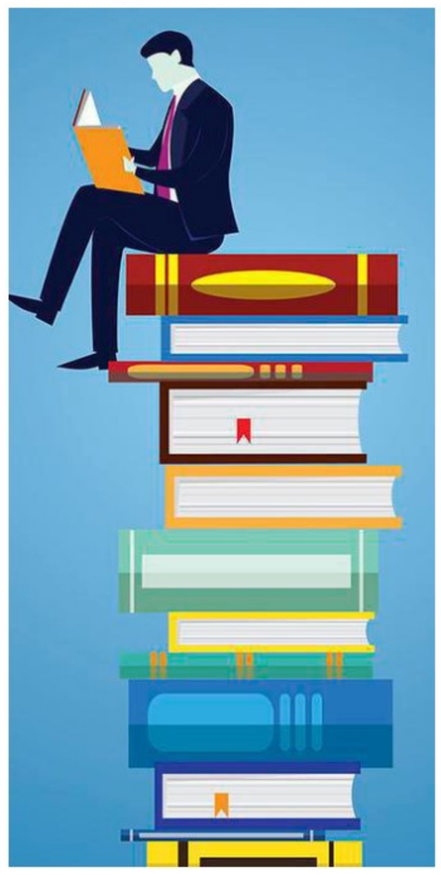
QUESTION 3
In which year was the tournament inaugurated? Which country hosted it first?

QUESTION 4
Where was the second edition of the ICC tournament held? It was held in this country to increase the popularity of the sport here?

QUESTION 5
Which two countries have won the tournament twice?

Visual question:
Identify this cricketer. What is the feat he has achieved in this tournament? AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Many people living in this city call it "Chatigaon". **Ans: Chittagong**
2. In 1989, one conflict in this (now erstwhile) country was over whether the two halves of its name should be hyphenated. **Ans: Czechoslovakia**
3. Political efforts to rename this region led to a two-word name in 2020, one representing the local Pashtun people and the other the non-Pashtun. **Ans: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**
4. In the Turkish language, this water body is called the "Gulf of Basra". **Ans: Persian Gulf**
5. The name of this country is also the historic name of a region in Iran. Specifically, it was the name of a region south of the Aras river. **Ans: Azerbaijan**
Visual: This British Overseas Territory in the south Atlantic Ocean is an archipelago. **Ans: Falkland Islands**
Early Birds: Tito Shiladitya| Erfanally Oosmany| M. Suresh Kumar| Prashansa Lohumi| Ayush Jaiwal



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Let's discuss the two passages given last week. Passage (a) is written in conversational or colloquial English. This is the kind of language we use in our daily conversation. The language of passage (b) is formal, a little too formal. This is the language we use on formal occasions. The whole passage is one sentence. It could have been split into two or more sentences for easier comprehension, (a) is too colloquial, (b) too formal. So long as you are able to communicate your ideas clearly, you can use any language appropriate to the context. You should not mix levels. Don't mix the formal with the informal language. When you introduce a person at a public meeting, you generally use formal language.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in introducing to you Mr. X. a distinguished scientist.... Now I request the fellow to give his speech." In this context, the word 'fellow' is inappropriate. 'Fellow' is a colloquial word. The audience would be amused when we use the word on formal occasions."

"But we say 'Fellow of the Royal Society."

"Sure. Here we are talking about the person's academic achievement."

"I can't say at a condolence meeting: – We have assembled here to condole the death of X who kicked the bucket three days ago."

"No. 'To kick the bucket' means 'to die'. It is slang. It is not used on formal occasions."

"Is 'colloquial language' inferior to other kinds of language?"

"No. It is not inferior but different. It was introduced into English in 1751 by Dr. Johnson in an essay in *The Rambler*. But he did not include it in his Dictionary published in 1755. It doesn't have pejorative overtones." '

"But some think it has."

"True. That's why some dictionaries use the label 'informal' instead of 'colloquial."

"Before you proceed any further, please tell me the difference between 'forego' and 'forgo'."

"'Forego' means 'go before'. 'Forgo' means 'to abstain from, do without'. The foregoing remarks were made by John. He decided to forgo his lunch on the advice of his doctor."

Published in The Hindu on May 16, 1995.

Word of the day

Acquiesce:
to agree or express agreement

Synonyms: accede, assent

Usage: *He gradually acquiesced to the demands of the opposition.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/acquiescepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌækwiˈɛs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Business days of Aero India received good response: MoD

The three days saw the participation of 930 exhibitors compared to 800 in the 2023 edition of the event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first three days of Aero India 2025 which are dedicated to business visitors concluded on Wednesday. The five-day air show was inaugurated on February 10 and the three business days saw the participation of 930 exhibitors compared to 800 in the 2023 air show.

Besides, the space which was utilised by exhibitors also increased from 35,000 square metres in 2023 to 42,000 square metres this time.

"The aero show has witnessed unprecedented response. The static display of different types of aircraft increased from 23 to 34 and the biggest attraction of this edition was the participation of the SU-57 and F-35 fighter jets," said Sanjeev Kumar, secretary, Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, at the valedictory function of Aero India 2025.

A Sukhoi 30 MKI takes off at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

He added that during the air show, Defence Ministers and Deputy Defence Mnisters from 26 countries and senior officials from over 80 countries were hosted. "On the inaugural day, we had a CEOs conference which was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who spent the entire duration of his afternoon on the inaugural day with CEOs of various companies," he added. Mr. Kumar said that during the Defence Ministers' conclave, delegates from over 20 countries put forth their views.

No compromise on national security, says Rajnath Singh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that there is no scope for any compromise when it comes to national security.

Speaking at the valedictory function of Aero India 2025, Mr. Singh said: "National security is of the utmost importance and there is no scope for any compromise. Nothing less than the best can be allowed when it comes to national security. Be it be the equipment for our soldiers or provision of proper amenities for them and their families, providing them the best in everything is our national responsibility."

He added that the armed forces today are not only equipped with the best weapons and technologies but also possess platforms manufactured in India. Mr. Singh praised the armed forces for their full trust in indigenously-manufactured Defence products.

"The military has wholeheartedly adopted weapons and equipment manufactured in the country. Only with the complete satisfaction of our armed forces can we move ahead to achieve self-reliance at a faster pace. The huge Defence Industrial Complex being built in India is based on the trust and faith of all our forces," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, and other dignitaries during the valedictory function of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The Defence Minister said that while 65 to 70% of Defence equipment was imported a decade ago, today almost the same percentage of weapons and platforms are being manufactured on Indian soil.

"Today, we are at a juncture where many Defence products, including fighter jets, missile systems and naval vessels, are not only protecting our borders, but also catching the attention of the world. From small artillery to large platforms like Brahmos and Akash missile systems, we are exporting a variety of products to many countries," he said.

He also participated in the Samarthya indigenisation event, which was a first-of-its-kind at Aero India.

It showcased India's indigenous ingenuity in Defence manufacturing through 33 major items including 24 of DPSUs, DRDO, Indian Navy and nine successful innovation projects of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, FEB. 13	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:25
RISE 19:11	SET 07:12
FRIDAY, FEB. 14	
RISE 06:42	SET 18:25
RISE 19:58	SET 07:49
SATURDAY, FEB. 15	
RISE 06:42	SET 18:25
RISE 20:43	SET 08:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	20
Mysuru	32	15
Bengaluru	34	16

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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BEL and France's Safran announce joint venture for HAMMER smart precision guided weapon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Defence public sector undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Safran Electronics & Defense of France have announced a partnership to create a joint venture for the manufacturing, customisation, sale and maintenance of HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) smart precision guided air-to-ground weapon in India.

The HAMMER is mounted on the Rafale of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by K.V. Suresh Kumar, director (Marketing), BEL, and Alexandre Ziegler, executive vice-president, Safran Electronics & Defense on the sidelines of Aero India 2025.

"The proposed joint venture between BEL and Safran Electronics & Defense will be a major step toward strengthening India's capabilities in Defence manufacturing and achieving self-reliance in advanced weapon systems. It will localise HAMMER production, enable development of future variants and support the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative by reducing import dependence," said Manoj Jain, chairman and managing director, BEL in a statement.

The collaboration will facilitate technology transfer, create opportunities for Indian industries, especially SMEs and position India as a global hub for smart ammunitions production, he stated.

As part of this partnership, BEL and Safran Electronics & Defense also plan to establish a centre of excellence aimed at enhancing India's Defence capabilities, a release from the companies said.

This centre will bolster joint industrial activities in areas such as manufacturing, engineering, and associated services such as operational maintenance, repairs, and overhauls of optronics and navigation equipment for the Indian armed forces, it stated.

Safran will bring its expertise by implementing a knowledge transfer programme which will happen in a phased manner with BEL leading final assembly, testing and quality assurance.

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City start-up unveils cargo drone

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scandron, a Bengaluru-based start-up, has unveiled the CargoMax 20KHC drone in the ongoing Aero India 2025.

The start-up claimed that the CargoMax 20KHC drone is India's most powerful cargo drone with a 200kg payload capacity.

"The CargoMax 20KHC is designed to provide the Indian armed forces with a stable, robust, reliable aerial logistics platform for last- mile deliveries. The CargoMax 20KHC is a fully autonomous aerial logistics platform that offers pilotless operations, an operational range of 15 km and an operational ceiling of 6,000 m above mean sea level," Scandron said.

It added that all CargoMax drones have variants that enable them to offer superior logistics capability, whether it is for high-altitude operations, desert operations or naval operations.

Himalayan Heli Services orders two Airbus H125 helicopters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The choppers will be deployed for commercial air transport and aerial work missions

Himalayan Heli Services Limited has ordered two Airbus H125 helicopters during the Aero India, 2025.

Himalayan Heli Services, which is a helicopter company in the pilgrimage and aerial work sectors, said that this latest order will expand Himalayan Heli's fleet to eight H125 helicopters, making it the largest H125 multi mission operator in the country.

The helicopters will be deployed for commercial air transport and aerial work missions in northern India.

T. Wangchuk Shamshu, managing director, Himalayan Heli Services Limited, said that the company was using Airbus H125 helicopters for more than 15 years and they had proved to be a safe, versatile and suitable for high altitude passenger flying as well as airborne geophysical survey across varied terrains.

"We are certain that these helicopters will be valuable assets that will enable Himalayan Heli to expand their growing network of services," said Sunny Guglani, Head of Airbus Helicopters in India and South Asia.

The H125 is a single-engine helicopter which has accumulated more than 40 million flight hours worldwide.

It can operate in high-and-hot and extreme environments and can be reconfigured for various missions, including aerial work, firefighting, law enforcement, rescue, air ambulance, passenger transport, and many others. Airbus said the H125 is the only helicopter to have landed at the top of Mount Everest.

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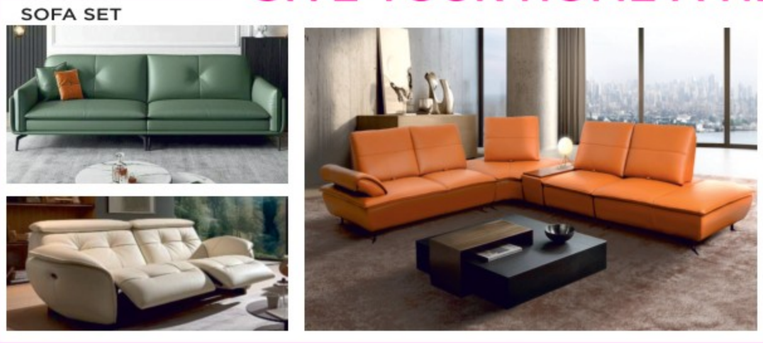

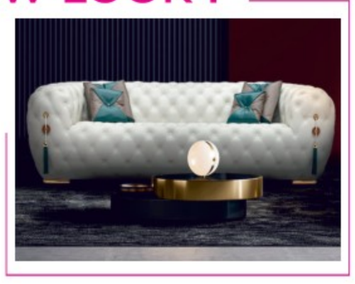

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Big investments: Vijayapura emerges key destination

Region attracts significant projects in renewable energy and agro-processing sectors, says M.B. Patil; Karnataka is hoping to rake in investments of ₹10 lakh crore through 'Invest Karnataka 2025'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said Karnataka may attract cumulative investments to the tune of ₹10 lakh crore through the four-day global investors conference, 'Invest Karnataka 2025'. Day two of the event saw Vijayapura, home district of Industries Minister M.B. Patil, attracting substantial investments.

Mr. Patil said the region had attracted significant projects in the renewable energy and agro-processing sectors.

Visitors at 'Invest Karnataka 2025' at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Renewable energy

Among key announcements, he said Suzlon has announced its collaboration with the Government of Karnataka to develop 3,000 MW of wind energy and establish a state-of-the-art wind turbine blade manufacturing facility in Vijayapura.

According to the Minister, as part of its commitment to skill development and employment, Suzlon will recruit 90% of its workforce from ITI graduates and work closely with Karnataka's technical institutes.

Additionally, the region is set to witness the establishment of a state-of-the-art multi-pulse processing plant by Wings - Viterra. With an installed capacity of 800 MT a day, the plant is expected to be developed in Kalaburagi or Vijayapura.

The facility will process key agricultural commodities, with a proposed investment of ₹250 crore. The plant is projected to achieve an annual turnover of over ₹800 crore from its second year of operations, making it the largest pulse processing facility at a single location in South India, said the Minister.

From Epsilon group

Among the key investments announced on Wednesday at the event, the government said that Epsilon Group, an industrial player in the global carbon black and advanced battery materials industry, had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Karnataka to invest ₹15,350 crore in developing a manufacturing and research facility for electric vehicle (EV) battery testing and advanced materials.

Suzlon to establish wind turbine blade manufacturing facility in Vijayapura

This strategic investment, planned over the next 10 years, is expected to bolster India's EV ecosystem.

As part of the MoU, Epsilon Group, along with its subsidiaries Epsilon Advanced Materials and Epsilon CAM Pvt. Ltd. will manufacture sustainable and high-performance graphite anode and lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cathode battery materials while Inspire Energy Research Center Pvt. Ltd. will focus on R&D, testing and training for EV battery materials and battery manufacturers.

MoU signed

Among others, Lam Research, an American company that develops tools essential for semiconductor manufacturing, announced an investment of over ₹10,000 crore in Karnataka over the next few years. Lam Research has signed an MoU to earmark a land parcel owned by the KIADB for the planned investment.

Karnataka is emerging as the preferred investment destination for Japanese enterprises, with 15 major companies committing investments and signing MoUs amounting to to ₹7,500 crore, said the government.

Viksit Bharat should be a collective commitment and a goal of all 1.4 billion in this country: Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Viksit Bharat should be a collective commitment and a goal of all 1.4 billion people in this country. What will make this growth sustainable, inclusive, and unparalleled will be India's youth population, said Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal here on Wednesday.

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at 'Invest Karnataka 2025' in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

In a keynote address at the second day of Global Investors' Meet: Invest Karnataka 2025, here, the Union Minister emphasised Karnataka's role in the country's overall economic growth, especially in terms of developing smart cities, software and electronics exports, technology, and tourism.

He said through this edition of GIM, the State was hopeful of attracting investments worth ₹10 lakh crore. He said it was possible thanks to the State government's active initiatives to push business growth backed by infrastructure, policy reforms, and incentive for innovation.

Mr. Goyal said India's growth story would be mostly driven by its youth in the next over two decades, with the nation expected to add $30 trillion to its GDP from $4 trillion currently.

"India's average age is 28.4 years and we will remain young for the next 30 years while most developed nations are ageing. Which other country has the potential to sell millions of cars, 250 million washing machines, 400 million air conditioners, and which other country has this kind of demand," he asked a large audience of 5,000 investors and industrialists gathered from within and outside the country.

He further said consumption-led growth coupled with investment-led growth would act as twin pillars of the country's economic growth. An investment of ₹11,20,000 crore in infrastructure, proposed in the Budget, would create a multiplier effect of 3.5 times, he added.

"Collaboration and cooperation will make India a success story. Everyone, MSMEs, farmer communities, tourism, manufacturing, and start-up ecosystem should go together to create jobs and trigger economic activity," the Minister said.

Karnataka's focus

Karnataka's tourism industry, especially Hampi and other destinations, has the potential for further growth, he said. He commended the State's contributions to the country's total exports of $800 billion. The country's toy imports have come down by half and toy exports have grown by three times, he said.

Electric mobility, semiconductors, textiles, and deep tech are the critical sectors that Karnataka should continue to focus and get investments, Mr. Goyal suggested.

'India yet to spell out reforms needed to achieve 8% growth'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The nature of reforms needed for India to achieve 8% annual growth for two decades to realise its vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 have not been clearly spelt out, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the erstwhile Planning Commission, has said.

Mr. Ahluwalia shared these views at a fireside chat with economist and author Salman Anees Soz on 'Resilient Pathways: Charting Economic Growth Amid Global Challenges' at the 'Global Investors' Meet: Invest Karnataka 2025' here on Wednesday.

Former Deputy Chairman of the erstwhile Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia being greeted by Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil at 'Invest Karnataka 2025'.

"For India to grow at 8%, its urban population must grow very rapidly," he opined.

Gandhiji had said India lived in its villages and many people still regard that as a sort of romantic vision, he said. "I think you have to recognise that India will not be 'Viksit' if it does not largely reduce the numbers staying in villages," he said.

Good Gandhians should recognise that this is not undermining the views of Mahatma Gandhi, who expressed these views 100 years ago but did not mean that it would continue to do so 100 years later, Mr. Ahluwalia said.

He also said geopolitical tensions were on the rise. The U.S. has its own problems not only with its closest allies, such as Canada and Mexico but also with China. China was cosying up to Russia while Russia was becoming more dependent on China. Europeans were very scared of Russia, and they were not that bothered about China, he observed.

Carving out new States

Mr. Ahluwalia also advocated carving out two or three States from large States such as Uttar Pradesh to give a new impetus to urbanisation. He suggested picking up some tier-II towns and developing them into "near-metros". "We should seriously consider cutting down many of the larger States into two or three," he suggested.

Mr. Ahluwalia recalled that former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and BSP leader Mayawati had suggested splitting her State into three. Had this been done, there would have been a political willingness instantly to create three new good cities, he said. "People have said this could be done in many other States. In Maharashtra, for example, there are people who said that the Vidarbha region should be made a separate State with Nagpur as its capital," he added.

According to him, earlier in 1991, initiating reforms was easy because the world was speaking one language. "We started the reforms after Eastern Europe had abolished communism... There was only one thing to do which was integrating with the global market. That has become much more complex now," he said.

₹4.9 crore in cash and gold jewellery seized from moneylender

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The Gadag district police on Wednesday seized ₹4.9 crore in cash and 992 grams of gold ornaments from a loan shark during simultaneous raids at 13 locations in Betageri town. Addressing presspersons after the raids, Gadag Superintendent of Police B.S. Nemagouda said the operation was carried out based on a complaint filed by a borrower Ashok Ganachari against moneylender Yallappa Miskin.

The police also recovered 600 bank cheques, 650 bonds, four ATM cards, two LIC bonds, and 65 litres of liquor.

Kharge refuses to speak on the question of KPCC chief post

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

AICC president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said the appointment of pradesh Congress committee presidents for three States, including for Odisha, was over and the rest would be done in due course.

When asked specifically about Karnataka, where the appointment of the new KPCC president, a post presently held by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, has been a bone of contention, Mr. Kharge refused to comment.

He told reporters, "I can't say what I have done specifically for Karnataka. I don't want to tell you anything because you mix masala with the news... We will do it in two-three States in two-three days. We will appoint the office-bearers of the State party units wherever it is not done. We will also complete the appointments of different office-bearers of the State units and different cells in five to six days," Mr. Kharge said.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge speaking to reporters in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. ARUN KULKARNI

When asked about Karnataka Home Minister and Dalit leader G. Parameshwara's recent meeting with him, speculated to be held in this regard, Mr. Kharge said it was very common for a leader to meet the AICC president of his own State.

"Is it a big deal for a leader to meet the AICC president from his State? Since I am from Karnataka, many leaders from the State call me directly and easily fix an appointment to meet me. I cannot say 'no'. Everybody from Karnataka comes and meets me. You should not spread rumours abould leaders like Parameshwara, Shivakumar, and Satish Jarkiholi meeting me and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah talking to me over the phone. Media creates confusion and makes leaders confused," he said.

Protect police and honest officials: BJP leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Karnataka legislature on Wednesday staged a protest, alleging that there is no protection for honest officials in the State and that the morale of the police was down due to alleged repeated instances of attack on police personnel. They also petitioned the DG&IGP seeking protection in this regard.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok and his Council counterpart Chalavadi Narayanaswamy took part in the protest that saw both the leaders holding placards with slogans accusing the government of providing "suicide *bhagya* (boon)" to honest officials and demanding protection to honest officials.

Later, interacting with reporters, Mr. Ashok alleged the government was in the grip of the sand mafia which was evident with the incident of the son of an MLA allegedly hurling abuses against a woman officer for trying to stop illegal sand extraction.

From Page One

Governor gives nod to Ordinance

He suggested that this issue be discussed in the legislature and measures taken to include them in the Bill that would replace the Ordinance.

The government had taken the Ordinance route in the wake of more than a dozen people committing suicide allegedly following harassment by MFIs.

The Governor had returned the Ordinance last Friday, stating that the Ordinance would benefit only borrowers while no provision had been made to provide protection to lenders.

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1) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document is **from 11-02-2025. 2)** Last Date for Online Quires: **15-02-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of e-Tender in e-Procurement Portal: **18-02-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 4)** Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: **20-02-2025 at 10.30 AM.**

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Date: 13th February 2025

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‘Research must ask the right questions and communicate effectively to stakeholders’

Balaji Parthasarathy underlines the importance of identifying the source of problems in each city and how they affect the different inhabitants

INTERVIEW

Balaji Parthasarathy

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

There are certain things that might be amenable to what you might broadly call technical solutions... The problems need to be understood in terms of the political structures that govern them. That’s why putting more signal lights on the road or building more flyovers become short-term solutions, says Balaji Parthasarathy. FILE PHOTO

AI-powered traffic signals at Hudson Circle and J.C. Road junctions.

As a city grows, so do its problems. In the years 2022 and 2024 Bengaluru witnessed some of the worst floods in its history, whereas 2023 was a year of drought.

The latest TomTom traffic index has rated the city’s traffic as the third slowest in the world.

Plumes of dust from construction debris, potholes and vehicular emission have ensured soaring levels of air pollution in the city.

However, many of these problems are not unique to Bengaluru.

Inundated roads and railway tracks during monsoon have become a yearly phenomenon in Mumbai, while Kolkata has the second slowest traffic as per the TomTom index. Pollution levels in the national capital Delhi skyrocket every winter.

While the problems may look common, what is different is the source of these problems in each city and how they affect the different inhabitants in each city, says Balaji Parthasarathy, faculty at IIIT-Bangalore and Principal Investigator at Fairworks India project.

Part of IIIT-B’s Centre for Information Technology and Public Policy (CITAPP), an interdisciplinary research and advocacy centre that focuses on the policy challenges and the organisational demands made by technological innovation, Parthasarathy speaks to *The Hindu* about the works of CITAPP, the role of research in sensitising technologists, policymakers and other stakeholders about the social implications of technology, and why it is crucial to ask the larger questions.

Can you give an overview of CITAPP and what it does?

We set up CITAPP in 2012. It stands for Centre for IT and Public Policy. We realised that technology was becoming a very important part of various discussions and dialogues, and finding applications in various aspects of life, having social implications.

By 2010 India had become the world’s largest software services exporter. But there were also questions about why is it that India exports only services and doesn’t have product companies like Microsoft or Adobe.

This was on the supply side. The question on the demand side was how we can ensure that this technology finds beneficial outcomes for the underprivileged.

So, we wanted to think about issues on the demand and the supply side and how we could conduct research to bring these kinds of issues to the attention of the public as well as other stakeholders.

The other reason for doing this was while all this excitement of IT was going on, there was very little in terms of research, especially in terms of policy. While there are many centres of public policy in the country, CITAPP is the only one devoted to exclusively thinking about public policy through the lens of information technology.

The research spans a range of topics from spectrum allocation, to disability in technology, to Aadhaar and its implications, e-governance, data justice, labour technology, human-computer interaction, healthcare, the software industry, implications of automation for work, and so on. One of the earliest studies on e-governance was undertaken here. The first-ever study on the policy implications of e-waste was also done here through the master’s thesis of a student. We’ve also done some of the initial research in this country on things like information accessibility.

Our goal as academics is to show, through our research, what questions to ask, how to frame things and then allow others to act on those issues. Being at a technology institution, our role is also to sensitise technologists and then communicate it effectively to the public.

What are some of the works you have been doing in relation to Bengaluru or Karnataka?

Some colleagues have worked on transportation issues and so on, building sophisticated algorithms for transport routing. But our work is not just about solving a local problem. That’s what consulting companies do. We may collect data from here, but as academics, we operate at a slightly broader level. You can take our findings and recommendations and see how they can potentially fit a Bengaluru or a Mysuru or a Dharwad. We help the government think about how we need to frame these issues.

What would be some of these issues?

In all the areas that we work in, we are always framing questions and passing it on to the government.

Balaji Parthasarathy
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For example, a favourite topic of governments is to create the next Silicon Valley in Bengaluru. It makes little sense. People who say that don’t understand Silicon Valley at all. Every city or every region has its own history. You can’t go back and replicate it. But what can we learn from different parts of the world? That’s what we look at.

We are telling you what questions to ask rather than clone something.

At a slightly abstract level, we come up with certain broad answers and recommendations and then it is up to people in decision-making positions to take a call.

Many of the problems in Bengaluru - like traffic congestion or flooding or pollution - are seen in other Indian cities too. So, what are the right questions we should ask?

Start asking what the sources of these problems might be. For example, flooding. In a place like Bangalore, you have lakes which have been built upon. You take a city like Kolkata, it is low-lying. So the source of the problem is different. Then you look at who is being affected.

Take the example of pollution. Delhi has a very specific problem of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana. In Bhopal, the source was Union Carbide. What does it tell you about future planning processes for each of these cities?

So, what you do is to look at history and then come up with recommendations for the future based on these kinds of contexts. And then you try and look at a broad range of possibilities and create broad categories.

For example, Bengaluru represents a category of cities where real estate development has run amok and, therefore, areas that were natural catchment areas or drainage areas have suffered. Then you start formulating the problem differently. Formulating the problem in broad terms allows you to take it to another city and pose these questions - what are the sources, who are being affected, why are they being affected at all, and so on.

The other thing that’s extremely critical to ask is who holds power. There are certain things that might be amenable to what you might broadly call technical solutions. But then there are issues where you need to understand the politics of it. The problems need to be understood in terms of the political structures that govern them.

That’s why putting more signal lights on the road or building more flyovers become short-term solutions. It’s only like putting band-aid when you are bleeding without understanding what’s causing it. So, the job is to ask these questions and make sure that you go beyond band-aid thinking..

In Electronic City, why was it that they built the flyover first and not the metro? Answering this question requires an understanding of who has access to power.

You can’t also pretend to know all the answers either. I can give you a broad framework and say, if it’s not working, come back and tell me what’s the problem. Then we can tweak it. I think one of the important things is to be able to be open to international influence. You can’t think only in terms of Bengaluru, Karnataka or even India. Maybe some lessons come from Brazil and that could tell you something.

Do you feel that sometimes AI obsession tends to go a little overboard?

Yes. But that’s also because you don’t have other ways of solving the problems of the world. Once people learn to understand what it is and figure it out, then they’ll be able to step back and see the specific ways it can help us.

It is going to change our lives. But nobody knows how much and to what extent. Until then everybody is going to say all kinds of bizarre things. The multiplicity of ways in which you can engage and use these technologies is something that we can’t often predict. Also, technology itself is not a fixed thing. With AI there are two issues. One is that it’s a very broad term. It doesn’t refer to one technology. It’s a basket of technologies and the shape of the basket and its content is changing every day. There is a lot of hype. Maybe in five years, they’ll be talking about something else.

But if the right questions are posed and if there is a political will to implement it, can AI be a powerful tool to solve?

No two ways about that. But just don’t make wild claims about it without asking or studying why certain outcomes and possibilities exist. We have AI signals, AI cameras...you have to be aware of why you’re doing what you’re doing. There must be the willingness to backtrack and make changes, there must be feedback mechanisms. If you’re very blindly wedded to it, then you’re asking for trouble.

Patient from Ghana undergoes brain tumour surgery without blood transfusion in city hospital

The patient presented with symptoms of left-sided weakness persisting for a year and headaches worsening over eight months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A meningioma is a tumour that grows from the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord, called the meninges. GETTY IMAGES

A 34-year person hailing from Ghana, adhering to Jehovah’s Witnesses beliefs, underwent a surgery for removal of a giant meningioma without blood transfusion in a private hospital in Bengaluru.

The patient - Adan (name changed) - presented with symptoms of left-sided weakness persisting for a year and headaches worsening over eight months. The weakness affected his left upper and lower limbs progressively, leading to difficulty grasping objects with his left hand and walking difficulty. Subsequently, he had a seizure episode, which worsened his headache and neurological deficits.

He was then admitted to Sakra World Hospital in Bengaluru last year in January, where doctors detected a right parietal convexity meningioma, a large 10x 9 cm tumour abutting the right side of his brain.

A team of doctors led by Arjun Srivatsa, Director and Head of the Department at the Institute of Neurosciences and Shylesh M.P., Associate Consultant - Neurosurgery, conducted a successful craniotomy for tumour excision.

What is meningioma?

A meningioma is a tumour that grows from the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord, called the meninges. “A meningioma is not a brain cancer, but it may press on the adjacent brain, nerves and vessels and can cause trouble. Most meningiomas grow very slowly over the years without any symptoms. However, certain tumours can grow rapidly and behave aggressively. Sometimes, their effects on nearby brain tissue, nerves or vessels can cause serious disability,” explained Dr. Srivatsa.

“Because most meningiomas grow slowly, often without symptoms, they do not always need treatment right away, instead, they may be watched over time. However, large meningiomas causing compression of the brain require immediate attention, he said.

Challenges

“Adan being a follower of Jehovah’s Witnesses sect, who refuse transfusion of blood or any forms of blood products like platelets, plasma etc., it was a challenging situation for the surgeons and the anaesthetic team to handle the intraoperative blood loss. As meningiomas are highly vascular tumours, they tend to bleed profusely during the surgery. Hence, a meticulous surgical technique and haemostasis has to be achieved during the surgery to minimise the amount of blood loss. This patient had a significant amount of bleeding during the surgery in spite of all the necessary precautions. There was a significant dip in his haemoglobin levels,” the doctor said.

“The team made all efforts to ensure the entire tumour was resected without much complications. While the patient recovered well without any neurological deficits, the drop in his haemoglobin levels was concerning. However, we were able to manage without any blood transfusion. He has been under follow up for the past eight months and is doing fine now,” he said.

Pointing out that blood loss is a known thing in huge complex meningiomas, Dr. Srivatsa said: “Operating on Jehovah’s Witnesses’ patients demands sensitivity to their beliefs. Timely diagnosis and prompt intervention are keys for a good outcome.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1975

No Difference with PWD Minister on Cauvery - Urs

Bangalore, Feb. 12: The Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, said today that the State Government had not entered into any agreement on the sharing of the Cauvery waters. The Government had only agreed in principle to the constitution of the Cauvery Valley Authority.

The Chief Minister was opposing an adjournment motion moved by the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde in the Legislative Council on the reported speech of the Public Works Minister Mr. H.M. Channabasappa at Davangere.

Minister to Resign from Co-op. Federation

Bangalore, Feb. 12: The Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs stated in the Karnataka Assembly today that he had advised the Minister of State for Electricity to give up the post of the presidentship of the State Cooperative Federation and his posts in other bodies.

He was intervening in the discussion raised by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda, questioning the propriety of the Minister of State for Electricity continuing the presidentship and directorship of several cooperative institutions even after he became Minister.

Starry, starry sight

Southern Stars by British photographer Clare Arni is an interactive exhibition of Kannada and Tamil cinema memorabilia

Ruth Dhanaraj

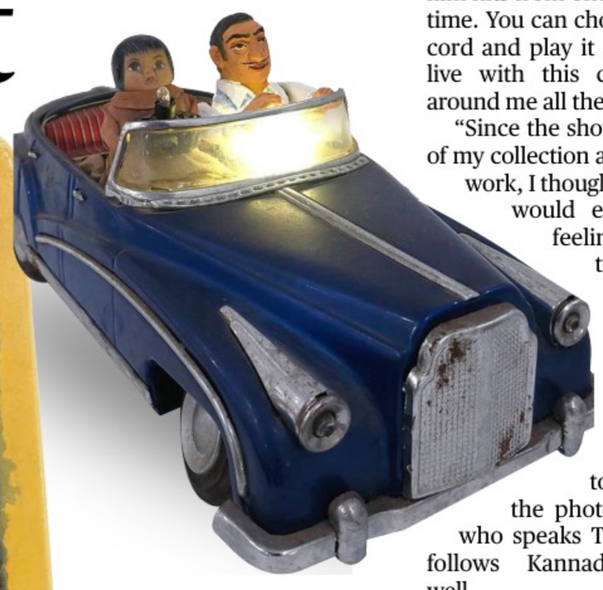
There are actors and then, there are movie stars. Movie stars ruled a world devoid of social media, a world where they were loved by women and men loved to be like them. Growing up in Madurai, Clare Arni was captivated by that world and now, despite the passing of years, that fascination has not waned.

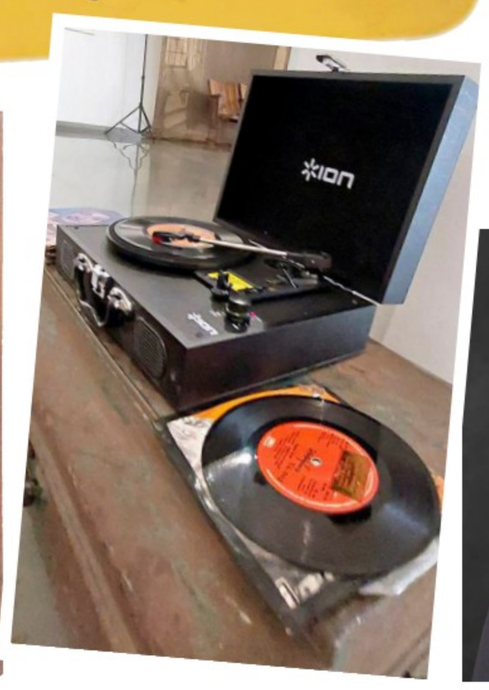
"I went to school in Madurai and this was the imagery that surrounded me throughout my childhood and my formative years. We had no television and there was no other form of entertainment. The hero worship of MGR, Shivaji Ganesan and Rajkumar was very much a part of my makeup.

"I started my collection about 20 years ago," says the British photographer who has now made Bengaluru her home. "I keep returning to Madurai, and I would come across cinema-related memorabilia in the strangest of places – antique stores, costume makers and the like."

Clare says "the instant shrines that would pop up" on these stars' birthdays and anniversaries inspired her. "They were so much a part of people's lives. This show was my way of paying homage to them."

Southern Stars has been designed as an interactive exhibition, says Clare. The walls are lined with black, white and sepia-tinted photographs of yesteryear heroes and heroines as well as brightly-coloured movie posters of yore. Visitors will also see a studio backdrop with two chairs as well as a trunk overflowing with costumes to one side.





"The backdrop is over a 100 years old and is from an old studio in northern Karnataka, while the chairs are from the old Liberty Theatre in Bombay. Anyone can come and dress up as a hero, and have their photograph taken against that background," she says, adding that the stage light strategically positioned there is not a prop; the gallery would photograph those who posed there.

On February 15, Clare will bring more costumes to the gallery and hold a pop up studio. Anyone who visits Sumukha that day can have their photo taken by her.

Clare's living room has been re-created in the centre of the gallery complete with easy chair, footstool, study table, rug, bookshelf and gramophone player. "There's a stack of 45 records with both Tamil and Kannada film hits from once upon a time. You can choose a record and play it as well. I live with this collection around me all the time."

"Since the show is both of my collection and of my work, I thought visitors would enjoy the feeling of sitting in my living room and playing the music I listen to," says the photographer who speaks Tamil and follows Kannada quite well.

The far wall of the gallery holds images of cinema props, old theatres and poster makers, that Clare captured. "Marina beach has a long tradition of putting up cut-outs of popular actors, offering fans a chance to be photographed with their favorites."

It is not hard to see the extent of Clare's fascination with all things cinema, at least from South India. The cine-related collectibles and curios, speak for themselves. "Whenever I travel, I try to source some, but it's becoming increasingly difficult to collect. I found the MGR statue in Pondicherry, and commissioned an artist to make the sculptures of Rajkumar. Sometimes I come across terracotta figures during Dusserha for the Gombe Habba."

Southern Stars is on display at Gallery Sumukha till March 1, 2025. Studio pop-up with Clare Arni on February 15. Entry free.

Collector's pride, viewer's envy Exhibits on display at Southern Stars by Claire Arni (below). RUTH DHANARAJ / SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CITYBEATS

Call of luxury

FEBRUARY 15
The Hi Life Exhibition is on in the city and offers a range of bridal wear and gold as well as footwear, nail art, bags and clutches, and skin care products apart from rugs and carpets, pret couture, and more. Also available are murals, spa essentials, candles, stationery and the like.
The exhibition concludes on February 17. At Lalit Ashok, 10am to 8pm.

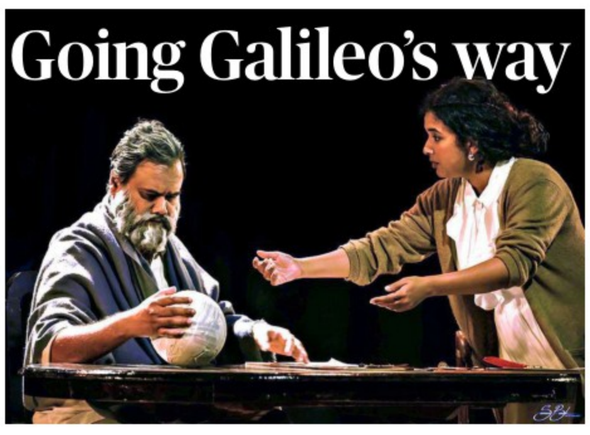
Love bites

FEBRUARY 14
Pasta Street celebrates Valentine's Day with a delectable menu, featuring indulgent dishes. From appetisers such as insalata di quinoa con avocado, sundried tomato and cheese cappelletti to Belgian chocolate cake, you and your loved one will be spoilt for choice.
At Pasta Street Sahakar Nagar, and food delivery apps Zomato, Swiggy and Eazydiner

Just resolutions

FEBRUARY 16
Conflict Alchemy is the name of a wellness workshop by Roy Jacob. According to Roy, Conflict Alchemy is a tool that can turn conflict into deeper understanding with solutions that work for everyone, helps clear assumptions or misunderstandings, and even emotional healing.
Open to those aged 18 and above. At Atta Galatta, 11am. Tickets available on BookMyShow

Going Galileo's way



Ruth Dhanaraj

Life of Galileo was written by Bertolt Brecht in 1938 and looks at the life of the polymath who discovered the world was round and who single-handedly took on the Church with his progressive ideas. Bangalore Little Theatre has adapted the play to suit today's audience, doing away with its original run time of three-plus hours.

One of the oldest English language theatre groups in the city, the Bangalore Little Theatre (BLT) was started in 1960 as a community troupe. Even today, the cast and crew participate voluntarily for the love of theatre, says Sridhar Ramanathan who directed *Life of Galileo*.

Sridhar who has been associated with BLT from 2003 says the troupe predominantly stages English-language productions, including Indian classics and children's plays. "We also have a vertical titled History of Ideas that include plays which talk about stories of people in historical context," says Sridhar, adding that in the past, BLT has also staged plays on the mathematician Ramanujam and the British chemist Rosalind Franklin, known for decoding the molecular structure of DNA.

This year, the BLT team settled on a piece about Galileo as they had not staged a play on him in Bengaluru for a while. Plus, the number of scripts about him gave them enough material to work with. Sridhar says they finalised on three scripts and over the past year, they collectively worked on crafting it to their specifications.

"The process was open and the idea was to build a community that would choose a script, work on it together, and then produce it," he says, adding, they wanted to create a different experience as opposed to staging a play from a set format.

The troupe has added original music as well as elements that would give audiences an idea of the man and his life.

"What is interesting about this play, is that it does not explicitly reveal Galileo's argument with the Church. Instead, it leads up to that incident and its impact. We found it relevant to portray how challenging it is for new ideas to gain acceptance in society, how difficult that journey can be, and how Galileo faced that problem."

"It may not be a path others would choose, but the way Galileo looks at it is quite different. That is why we felt *Life of Galileo* was relevant to our times."

Life of Galileo will be staged at Jagriti Theatre on February 15 and 16, at 3.30pm and 7.30pm on both days. Tickets on BookMyShow, Jagriti Box Office.

One from the history books Scenes from *Life of Galileo*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sisters in sync

Shilpa Anandraj

The Nadathur Foundation is organising the second edition of its concert series – Nada Sambhrama. The core belief of the foundation is to promote and celebrate the rich tradition of Indian classical music. This edition will feature concerts by S Subhalakshmi and S Sornalatha, popularly known as the Akkarai Sisters, followed by a vocal recital by Sandeep Narayan.

The Akkarai Sisters, hailing from a family of renowned musicians, are celebrated violinists in the world of Carnatic music. With a legacy of musical excellence, the duo continues to enthrall audiences with their music.

Trained by their father, Akkarai S Swamynathan, also a veteran violinist and founder of the Swara Raga Sudha School of Music, the duo took to music as children. Soon the sisters were in the spotlight as child prodigies, performing across venues nationally and internationally.

The sisters speak to us over a call from Chennai ahead of their Bengaluru concert. It is hard to differentiate between their voices as they complete each other's sentences. Performing in Bengaluru is not new for the sisters but this is their first concert for the Nadathur Foundation. "Many youngsters are taking to classical music. The turnout in Bengaluru is good even for a classical concert," Sornalatha says.

The concert will feature a variety of compositions, ragas and composers in varied tempos, says Subhalakshmi. "Since the concert is in Bengaluru we will try to bring in a composition of Purandaradasa and other Kannada composers."

About being known as the Akkarai Sisters, Sornalatha says, they are named after their grandfather's place. "When we became musicians, we brought in the name of the place as a prefix to our names."

Insisting their father did not pamper them, Subhalakshmi says, "As a teacher, he was a task master and we could not imagine getting away from a practise session. At that time, we did feel we missed out on a few things as children, but today we are grateful to him as we are where we are today in the world of music because of his dedication and discipline."

"At that age," Sornalatha chimes in, "We were not sure what we wanted to be. As we come from a family of musicians, we believed it was our destiny to become musicians."

Parents play a part in nurturing the value of traditions in their wards, Subhalakshmi says. "They instill a passion to learn arts. This passion, however, cannot be forced."

The credit for adapting the violin, a Western instrument, to Indian classical music according to Sornalatha, goes to Baluswamy Dikshitar. "He was the first to try classical music on the violin in the early 19th century. The British left behind many instruments and after he introduced the violin, it became an integral part of Indian classical music."

The sisters will be accompanied by violinist Vaibhav Ramani, Vidwan Sai Giridhar on the mridangam and Giridhar Udupa on the ghatam.

At Mangala Mandapa Auditorium NMKRV Campus, on February 15, 6pm. The event is open to all.

Stringed together S Subhalakshmi and S Sornalatha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karnataka High Court allows probe into cheating case against its employee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to interfere with a criminal case registered against one of its employees and his family members for allegedly cheating a 66-year-old woman of several crores of rupees and a valuable property at Jayanagar here and observed that the allegations *prima facie* indicate acts of hoodwinking, requiring an investigation by the police.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by N. Venkatesh, 47, who is an employee of the High Court, his wife, son, and daughter-in-law. The petitioners had questioned the first information report (FIR) registered against them by the police on December 31, 2021 on the complaint of Y. Sandhya.

Stay vacated

The court permitted investigation against the petitioners by vacating the interim order of stay against the probe granted way back in April 2022.

While declining to accept the contention of the petitioners that a civil transaction was given a colour of crime by the complainant, the court said that though it appears civil at its first blush, on a deeper delving into the complaint, "it is *prima facie* indicative of the fact that the complainant has been hoodwinked. This would require an investigation in the least."

It was alleged that the complainant and the wife of Mr. Venktesh became close after their regular meeting at a temple at V.V. Puram way back in 2019. The accused lured her citing his position as an employee of the court and took a loan of ₹1.5 crore, which the complainant had secured by mortgaging her property at Jayanagar.

Also, it has been alleged in the complaint that Mr. Venkatesh had got registered the sale deed of her Jayanagar property in his favour by fabricating the documents and did not pay the amount of ₹4.5 crore as was agreed.

"The allegations are criminal breach of trust, cheating, forgery, and conspiracy. The investigation may lead to affirmation of the crime so registered or may vary. In the light of the vivid complaint, it cannot be said the issue is purely civil in nature," the court observed while leaving open remedies available for the petitioner-accused.

5 nursing students in Kerala arrested on ragging charges

First-year students file complaints alleging severe physical and mental harassment by seniors at the Government College of Nursing attached to the Government Medical College, Kottayam

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

The Gandhinagar police in Kottayam arrested five third-year General Nursing students from the Government College of Nursing at the Government Medical College, Kottayam, on Wednesday, following allegations of ragging.

The arrested students have been identified as Samuel John, 20, from Moonnilavu, Kottayam; Jeeva, 19, from Nadavayal, Wayanad; Rijil Jith, 20, from Manjeri, Malappuram; Vivek, 21, from Koruthodu, Kottayam; and Rahul Raj, 22, from Wandoor, Malappuram.

The arrests came after three first-year students filed complaints alleging severe physical and mental harassment since their classes began on November 4. According to the complainants, the victims were subjected to brutal assault in the college hostel, where they were forced to remain nude and lift weight plates using their private parts.

The victims were subjected to brutal assault in the college hostel, where they were forced to remain nude. VISHNU PRATHAP

The accused also allegedly used sharp-edged tools to injure the victims and extorted ₹800 from each of them every Sunday to buy liquor.

The abuse came to light when one of the victims contacted his parents, who urged him to file a complaint with the college. The college authority, in turn, conducted a preliminary probe and lodged a formal complaint with the Gandinagar police and the District Police Chief, Kottayam.

The police uncovered a case of ragging that had reportedly been ongoing for three months. Official sources said the accused have confessed to the charges during a preliminary interrogation.

Following the investigation, the accused were taken into custody and produced before a magistrate. The college administration has suspended them, pending further inquiry into the incident.

High Court dismisses former MLA's plea against defamation case filed by Karnataka Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash the defamation case registered against Suresh Gowda, former MLA, by Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy for making false allegations of corruption against him.

"In the considered view of the court, the statements made are *per se* defamatory *albeit, prima facie*. They definitely meet the ingredients and not the exceptions to those ingredients, again *prima facie*. If these statements cannot be said to be defamatory which requires a full-blown trial for the petitioner to come out clean, I fail to understand, what else can be," Justice M. Nagaprasanna observed while dismissing a petition filed by Mr. Gowda.

Suresh Gowda had challenged the cognisance taken by a Special Court of Magistrate

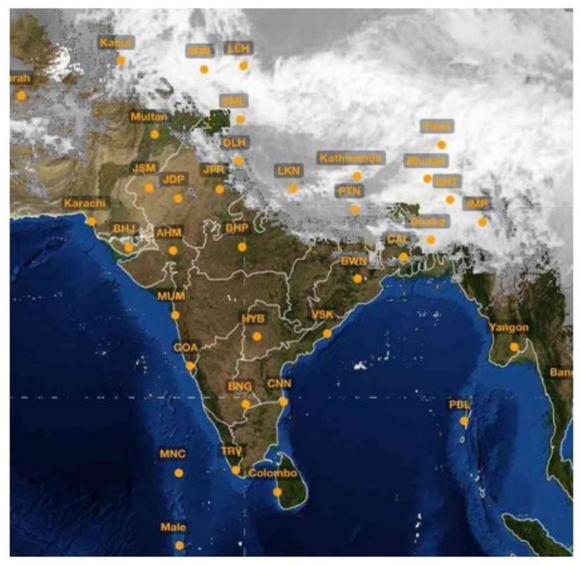
Mr. Gowda had challenged the cognisance of the offence of defamation taken by a Special Court of Magistrate in Bengaluru against him and the summons issued to him.

The court also declined to accept the contention raised on behalf of Mr. Gowda that the magistrate did not apply mind while taking cognisance of the offence, and observed that the order of taking cognisance "bears application of mind and is a product of cogent reasoning".

Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy had lodged the complaint based on the statements of Mr. Gowda, published in various newspapers, alleging that the Minister had indulged in corruption of several hundreds of crores of rupees, etc.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.0	20.4	Kozhikode	—	34.1	23.6
Ahmedabad	—	32.5	17.5	Kurnool	—	37.8	20.0
Aizawl	—	29.9	11.4	Lucknow	—	29.0	13.2
Allahabad	—	31.2	12.4	Madurai	—	35.0	22.6
Bengaluru	—	33.6	16.0	Mangaluru	—	33.7	21.2
Bhopal	—	28.8	13.6	Mumbai	—	32.9	16.5
Bhubaneswar	—	34.8	21.2	Mysuru	—	33.0	12.5
Chandigarh	—	26.2	12.2	New Delhi	—	26.5	11.6
Chennai	—	33.2	21.4	Patna	—	29.8	15.9
Coimbatore	—	34.4	21.0	Port Blair	—	32.3	22.8
Dehradun	—	25.2	10.8	Puducherry	—	32.0	22.0
Gangtok	2	13.2	8.1	Pune	—	37.0	20.0
Goa	—	35.0	23.0	Raipur	—	34.3	21.2
Guwahati	—	25.1	13.6	Ranchi	—	30.3	16.7
Hubballi	—	37.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.0	8.0
Hyderabad	—	35.4	20.6	Shimla	—	17.5	8.8
Imphal	—	24.7	13.0	Srinagar	5	13.2	2.4
Jaipur	—	27.2	15.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	23.2
Kochi	—	32.0	24.1	Tiruchi	—	33.3	22.0
Kohima	—	19.6	11.0	Vijayawada	—	34.2	19.0
Kolkata	—	30.2	20.2	Visakhapatnam	—	31.2	23.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.25	..53	.17	...137	...114	
Bengaluru	.18	..14	.39	90	...116	
Chennai	.22	..12	100	31	...143	
Delhi	.17	120	.42	...222	...255	
Hyderabad	...7	..98	.12	...127	...134	
Kolkata	...5	107	.34	...103	...101	
Lucknow	...9	..92	.51	...239	...191	
Mumbai	.18	..59	..—	...179	...161	
Pune	.20	114	.41	...167	...138	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..76	.26	...122	...141	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dewas, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 302 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION (PRE UNIVERSITY) BAGALKOTE
NO: DPUE/E-TENDER/127/2024–25 DATE: 11–02–2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPPP PORTAL ONLY)

Deputy Director, Department of School Education (Pre University), Bagalkote is inviting e-tendor for supplying physics, Chemistry and Biology Laboratory equipments to the 06 Government Adarsha P U Colleges of Bagalkote district having adequate resources and experience.

Sl. No	Explanation	Tender Number	Amount in Lakhs
1	Request for supplying Physics, Chemistry and Biology Laboratory equipments to the 06 Government Adarsha P U Colleges of Bagalkote District.	PUED/2025-25/IND0038	48.00

The tender details are available in the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in the date for the commencement of e-tender is **11-02-2025** and Last Date is **21-02-2025** at **05:30PM**. For moredetails contact E-procurement portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/-Deputy Director, Department of School Education (Pre University) Bagalkote

DIPR/Bgk/489/DeshpandePublicity/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
Executive Engineer,
RDW&S, Division, Mysore
Short Term Tender Notification No: 19/2024-25
Date: 07.02.2025

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Items rate tenders under KW1,KW2 ,KW-3& KW-4 Standard Bid documents (Two cover system) has been called for **GWM (KWG) 01 work of Mysuru taluk (Estimate cost Rs.116.29 Lakhs** under the Head of Account: Jal Jevan Mission. Tender is been invited as per Karnataka transparency Act G.O.No.FD9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06.08.2005 and as per recent amendments, Date of uploading Tender forms under e-procurement Dt: **07.02.2025 5:00 PM** onwards, Last Date for submitting the filled Tender forms is **14.02.2025 upto 5:00PM**, Opening of Technical bid **15.02.2025, 5.30 PM** onwards, Opening of Financial bid after approval of Technical bid. Eligeble Agencies can participate in the tender process and for e-procurement support contact e-procurement Tel. Phone No 080 – 22485867, 080-22485927 . For more details log on to **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** or contact the Officer under signed at office hours. Phone No.0821-2460 495. Tender Form Fees – As per e-procurement.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Mysore

DIPR/DDMYS/1270/KSMCA/898/2024-25

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105
IFT No: KMF/ENGG/Mother dairy-10KL HMST /1879/2024-25 Date: 12-02-2025

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through E-procurement for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed suppliers / manufacturers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 10KL HMST with related accessories for ice cream plant at Mother dairy, Yelahanka.	1 Job	50,000/-	3 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 13-02-2025 to 20-02-2025 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 20-02-2025 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 21-02-2025 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಅಭಯ ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ರಿಸಲ್ದಾರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 020
ದೂ.ಸಂ:080–23460035, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: ksdb.ho@gmail.com
No: KSDB/ADM/33/2024-25/623 Date:10.02.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) (ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವೃತ್ತ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳು, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀನ ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ **ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು** ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಯನ್ನು ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	Description of Item	No of Staffs
1	Data entry Operators	65
2	Drivers	07
3	Group-D Employees	40

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 277.67 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 4.17 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಿ–ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.02.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇರುವ ಸಂದೇಹಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಹರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.03.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಗಳವರೆಗೆ** ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.03.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳವರೆಗೆ** ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.03.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4:01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.03.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4:01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ವಿಕ್ಷೀಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಕಕೊಅಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/5002/2024–25

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka, Kolar-563 103.
Website:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Email:**bnuregistrar@karnataka.gov.in**
Date: 11.02.2025

E-tender Notification

The Registrar, Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Bids from the eligible and reputed firms for the various Tenders listed belowas per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act,the Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance, Department of Karnataka may participate through the kppp portal and download the tender document from the **website: http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 07.02.2025.**

(1) Suply of laptops to PG center, mangasandra, kolar **- Tender no: BNU/2024-25/IND0032.**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR
Bengaluru North University
Tamaka, Kolar

DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No:469/KSMCA/2024-25

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

I. No.: SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180/24-25/8871-73 Date: 11.02.2025

Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-3, Date: 01.10.2024** for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance by providing intermediate tower in existing corridor of 66 kV DG-3 & DG-4 D/C Lines between Tower number 70 & 72 by providing 1 No. of newly proposed 110kV DA+3, NBT, KPTCL Design Tower near Hirandanahalli Lake in TLM Sub-Division, Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr.(Op), BMAZ South Circle, Bengaluru.

II. No.: SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180/24-25/8874-76 Date: 12.02.2025

Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/23-24/EPR-29 Call-6, Dated: 03.02.2024** for the work of increasing vertical clearance of existing 66kV ITI-Hebbala-1 & 2 [Hebbala - L.R.Bande & Hebbala - Banaswadi tapped to pottery road] double circuit line between tower No. 06 & 07 in HMT Layout, R.T Nagar by providing 02 Nos. of 66kV "DC+6" NBT KPTCL design towers in TLM Sub-division, Hoody in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South Circle.

III. No.: SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180/24-25/8877-79 Date: 12.02.2025

Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-83 Call-1, Dated: 12.02.2025** for the work of increasing vertical clearance of existing 66kV Hebbala-ITI DC Line to Pottery road S/S passing near St. Charles School, between tower No. 22 & 23 in St. Thomas Town, HBR layout Bengaluru by providing 02 Nos. of 66kV "DD+6" NBT KPTCL design towers at existing tower places in TLM Sub-division, Hoody, in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South Circle.

For above works, the Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **13.02.2025.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele.,
Transmission (Operation), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL & BHEL)
(2x800 MW-YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582
No: KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT2428/Call-2 Date: 05.02.2025

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

RPCL tenders are invited from eligible KPWD Class III & above contractors through KPP Portal **www.kppp. karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **Provoding and installing structural support to electrical cables in coal stock yard. EMD: Rs.50,765/-.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders **19.02.2025 at 17:00 hrs.**

For any details and clarifications contact **Executive Engineer** (RTM), Yeramarus Thermal Power Station, Chicksugur-584 134 (Dist. Raichur) during office hours, **Mobile: 94808 30566**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES,
Office of the Commissioner, Pashupaalana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Opp. to CBI Office, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 024.
Email : commissionerahvs@gmail.com **Ph:** 080-23412767
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಪಸಂ/ವಿಎಂಎಸ್/ವಿವ–39/ಟಿ.ರಾ.ಜಂ.ಫೀ/ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11.02.2025

RE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP portal mode only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore hereby invites bids through KPP-portal from eligible bidders For The Supply Of Drugs,chemicals, Anthelmentics And Feed Suppliments For The Year 2024-25 for which the tendered Amount is **Rs. 2046.91 lakhs.**

Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting website No: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal from Dt: **11.02.2025** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP portal from **11.02.2025** to **26.02.2025 till 17.30 hours.**

Further information can be obtained from KPP Portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director, Veterinary Medical Stores , Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services
DIPR/CP/4989/Zen/2024-25

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE
MYSORE LEASING AND FINANCE LIMITED
Registered office: #13, APMC Shopping Complex, Seshadri Iyer Road, Mysuru-570021, Karnataka
CIN: U65990KA1986PLC007789

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that, Our Company, Mysore Leasing and Finance Limited (Company) engaged in the business of Non-Banking Financial Services and having the valid Certificate of Registration issued by Reserve Bank of India.

It has come to our knowledge that, some unscrupulous agencies/ persons are fraudulently operating their business by offering fancy financial and investment products by using our Company's name, CIN, RBI Registration Number, through fake website in the name of **"Digital Loan Hub"** and fake face-book, telegram accounts and other social media links, claiming that they are operating from 3rd Floor, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560001 and have branches across India.

The General Public may please be noted that, our Company has been operating only from its registered office in Mysuru and do not have any other offices or branches in India and not offering its services through digital platform or availing such platform from outside persons/agencies.

We have lodged a complaint with jurisdictional Cyber-Crime Police Station in Mysuru and also brought to the notice of Reserve Bank of India at its office in Bengaluru.

In view of the above, the general public are advised not to fall prey to such fraudulent activities by the above said person/agencies by using our Company name and its credentials. Our Company shall not be liable or responsible for any transactions whatsoever which any person may do with the above said persons/agencies or losses, if any, suffered thereof. Any person dealing with the above said persons/agencies or with any of its employees or anyone associated with it, shall do so entirely at their own risk, cost and consequences thereof.

for Mysore Leasing and Finance Limited
Sd/-
K M Rajashekar
Managing Director
Date: 12/02/2025

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU | thehindu businessline. | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

Wilful violation

Supreme Court's queries expose pattern of obstinacy in T.N. Governor's conduct

The Supreme Court of India's probing questions to the Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi, have exposed a pattern of wilful violation of constitutional duty on his part. The questions related to the lawfulness of Mr. Ravi's act in referring to the President of India a set of Bills for which he had earlier "withheld assent", but was constitutionally bound to grant assent after their adoption for a second time by the State Assembly. The Bench was speaking on behalf of everyone when it asked whether Mr. Ravi had referred these Bills to the President only to avoid granting assent, as required by the first proviso to Article 200 of the Constitution. The earlier understanding that the withholding of assent puts an end to the life of a Bill was altered by the Court's judgment in 2023, holding that whenever Governors opt for that course of action, they should return the Bill to the legislature, as required in the proviso; and if passed again by the House, they were bound to grant assent. Faced with queries, the Attorney-General of India (A-G) raised the issue of possible repugnancy with central law. He argued that the Governor had rightly referred these Bills to the President due to an apparent conflict with UGC Regulations, as these Bills seek to change the manner in which university vice-chancellors are appointed. The A-G also maintained that when the Governor had earlier withheld assent, the Bills ceased to exist and the Assembly had presumed that these had been "returned" by the Governor and adopted them a second time. In a related contention, he has also argued that the requirement to return a Bill does not hold good if the issue of repugnancy is noted.

These arguments may appear fascinating in determining the right course of action to be followed by Governors in dealing with Bills, and the Bench, which has reserved its judgment, may come up with answers. However, the fact that the Governor has been using his powers to scuttle legislation is quite obvious. He had not acted on some of these Bills for a year or two or expressed his reservations relating to the repugnancy aspect while withholding assent. Also, he ignored the fact that he was bound to grant assent when the Bills were presented to him a second time, but referred them to the President. Even in a 2023 hearing, the Court had questioned whether a Governor, having chosen to withhold assent, could exercise another option by referring the same Bill to the President. Mr. Ravi appears bent on scuttling any law that does not suit his world view. It is time the Union government took note of the challenge his continuance in office poses to constitutional governance in Tamil Nadu.

Averting Engels' pause

Energy sustainability, labour markets emerge as key priorities in AI Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's stance on the evolving Artificial Intelligence (AI) landscape at the AI Action Summit in Paris on February 11, stressing the need for "governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks, and build trust". This perspective is also reflected in the joint statement signed by India and over 50 other countries. Commitments to trust, safety, and universal access align well with India's efforts to advance AI technologies while mitigating risks. The nation's approach to AI will be crucial as the technology progresses and costs decline. Innovations such as Chinese firm DeepSeek's breakthrough reasoning models underscore the growing risks to labour markets. The IT and services sector constitutes a significant portion of India's economy but employs a relatively smaller workforce. AI-driven efficiency gains present an attractive business proposition, yet the potential for job losses or stagnant wage growth in this sector poses serious risks. The Prime Minister rightly pointed out that technological advancements historically create new employment opportunities. However, as noted in the Economic Survey, there is a valid concern regarding an Engels' pause, a phase where firms reap the benefits of new technology while real wages stagnate. India cannot afford even a brief period of such economic strain, making proactive policy responses essential.

The summit's emphasis on sustainable AI growth and energy efficiency is equally timely, given global climate imperatives. The United States produces more than twice the electricity of India, despite having just a quarter of its population. A growing share of this energy is now consumed by data centres, which power AI training and deployment. As AI-driven energy demand surges, ensuring that this growth is powered by renewable sources is critical. Commercial AI success remains elusive, with substantial investments flowing into top market players but offering limited financial returns. While India may not replicate this high-investment, low-return model, developing foundational AI models that are tailored to Indian needs is imperative. Leveraging emerging efficiencies and maximising AI's potential must remain central to India's strategy. The IndiaAI Mission's initiatives, such as subsidised access to Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) clusters and funding for promising projects, are encouraging steps toward this goal. Looking ahead, integrating AI education and skills training at scale will be essential. Even if a significant share of top AI talent moves abroad, India must ensure that its domestic industry retains sufficient expertise to remain competitive. AI will undoubtedly reshape industries, and preparing a robust talent pipeline will be key to ensuring that India not only adapts but also thrives in this transformation.

Nuclear energy — dangerous concessions on liability

M.V. Ramana

is a physicist with the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP)

Suvrat Raju

is a physicist with the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP)

In the Union Budget speech on February 1, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the government's intention to take up "amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act…." This announcement is likely to please Washington, where successive administrations have been unhappy that the law places some minimal responsibilities on nuclear manufacturers in the event of an accident. But, in India, any move to indemnify suppliers should be a matter of serious concern since this could undermine nuclear safety.

Moreover, the reactors that the American government is pushing India to buy are extremely expensive and their import makes no sense on economic grounds.

Any nuclear reactor carries the risk of accidents – some of which, such as the multiple reactor meltdowns at Fukushima, Japan, in 2011, can be catastrophic. Such a disaster affects three parties: the victims, the operator of the nuclear plant (which, in India, is likely to be the public sector company, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited or NPCIL) and its supplier, which might be a large multinational corporation.

Following the Bhopal gas disaster (1984) the Supreme Court of India ruled, in 1986, in the Delhi Oleum gas leak case, that any enterprise engaged in a hazardous activity is "absolutely liable" for harm suffered by the victims. However, in 2010, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government created a special law for nuclear accidents that diluted this principle. Under this law, primary liability is channelled to the operator and capped at ₹1,500 crore.

This is unfair to victims because the economic damage caused by an accident can be much higher. The Japan Center for Economic Research estimated that the eventual cleanup costs of the Fukushima disaster could range from ¥35 trillion to ¥80 trillion (or ₹20 lakh crore to ₹46 lakh crore) – more than a thousand times the cap on operator liability in the Indian law.

Assigning responsibility

Despite this gross mismatch, the law did have one slightly redeeming feature. Under pressure from civil society groups and the political opposition, the UPA government was forced to include a clause called the "right of recourse". This allows the operator to recoup compensation paid to victims from the supplier if the accident was caused by "supply of equipment … with patent or latent defects or sub-standard services".

Because of the historical monopoly enjoyed by U.S. nuclear companies, liability laws in many other countries lack this feature. Instead, they completely indemnify suppliers. This simply reflects the influence of powerful corporations and is not based on a scientific analysis of previous accidents. In fact, design defects have played a role in every major accident to date. A weakness in the Mark 1 containment used in the reactors at Fukushima contributed to that accident. This defect was flagged as early as 1972, when a U.S. Atomic Energy Commission official warned that General Electric (GE), the reactor's designer, had used "data from tests not applicable to accident conditions" in safety assessments. The official recommended that "such designs not be accepted for construction permits" in the future. GE simply brushed aside this concern and, because it is indemnified by the Japanese liability regime, has not paid anything for the Fukushima accident.

> The line in the Union Budget on the intent to amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act should be a matter of serious concern

Indemnity removes any direct economic incentive for suppliers to ensure reactor safety once a sale is completed. This is not a hypothetical concern. Following the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, the Kemeny Commission established by the U.S. government noted that Babcock & Wilcox, the supplier of the reactor, had identified a safety hazard in an "earlier accident, bearing strong similarities to the one at Three Mile Island". Even though an engineer at the company had "urged, in the strongest terms, that clear instructions be passed on to the operators" to mitigate this hazard, the supplier failed to do so.

Backtracking on progress

Nuclear suppliers were furious at the idea that they might have to pay for accidents in India. To appease these companies, the UPA government made farcical attempts to dilute the right of recourse, both during and after the parliamentary debates on the law. This led the Bharatiya Janata Party leader Arun Jaitley to write that a "leopard never changes its spots."

However, after assuming power, the National Democratic Alliance government has pursued precisely the same policy of prioritising nuclear corporations over potential victims. Following U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to India in 2015, the Ministry of External Affairs issued a set of "frequently asked questions" downplaying the operator's right of recourse, and disingenuously suggesting that it could be bypassed using a contractual arrangement between the supplier and the NPCIL.

These machinations have not satisfied U.S. suppliers who are unwilling to expose themselves to any legal hazard in India. Their concerns are easy to guess. Although the current liability cap is low, a future government might rationalise it to reflect the true cost of an accident, exposing these companies to large financial risks. Moreover, accepting even minimal liability in India endangers their cosy arrangements in other countries where they have successfully demanded complete indemnity.

Finally, if the liability law mandates an assessment of the supplier's culpability, this might allow victims to hold corporate executives to account using criminal laws in the event of a disaster.

U.S. officials have actively lobbied on behalf of these politically influential companies. The outgoing U.S. Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, recently indicated that he had been in touch with leaders from both the ruling party and the Opposition in an effort to have the law amended. He also lamented that U.S. corporations had been unable to sell a single reactor to India nearly two decades after the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement. However, this has allowed India to avert a costly mistake as the troubled track record of these reactors in their home country shows.

The leading American reactor design on offer is called the AP1000. Electric utility companies commenced construction on four such reactors in the U.S. Two of these reactors, in South Carolina, were abandoned after repeated delays and cost escalations even though more than $9 billion had already been spent. Two other reactors, in Georgia, were completed at an eye-popping cost of $36.8 billion, over 250% of the $14 billion estimate provided at the start of construction.

These high costs translate to expensive electricity. Even taking into account lower labour costs in India, the cost of electricity from such reactors would be several times higher than competing sources as the writers of this article showed in a 2013 study in the *Economic & Political Weekly*. Small modular reactor designs, such as those offered by the U.S.'s NuScale Power corporation, are likely to be even less economical since they lose out on "economies of scale".

Hollow safety claims

The debate on liability also exposes the exaggerated safety claims made by suppliers. Westinghouse claims that a large release of radiation from an AP1000 reactor would happen only once in 50 million years. If reactors are so safe, why would nuclear vendors take extreme precautions to protect themselves from the consequences of an accident? If companies such as Westinghouse recognise that the risk of an accident is real and are unwilling to risk financial losses, why should Indian citizens who live near a reactor be willing to risk their lives and property?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi projects an image of a strong global leader. However, the government's announcement on the liability law is a revealing commentary on that message. When faced with pressure from the U.S. government, which puts the profits of U.S. corporations above all else, Mr. Modi's government seems unable to stand up for the basic rights and the safety of Indians.

Budgeting for a gender-inclusive 'Viksit Bharat'

Susan Ferguson

is Country Representative at UN Women India

The Union Budget 2025-26 emphasises the government's commitment to inclusive development, balanced growth and prioritising the well-being of four key population groups: the poor, youth, farmers, and women. In a welcome announcement, the Finance Minister set forth a holistic vision for Viksit Bharat (or Developed India) with 'zero poverty, universal good quality school education, 100% skilled labour with meaningful employment, 70% women in economic activities, and India as the food basket of the world.' The explicit inclusion of women as a priority group within this national development framework is commendable and reinforces the government's pledge towards women-led development.

Gender budget allocation

One of the most notable advancements in the Budget is the increase in the gender budget to 8.8% of the total Budget, a significant jump from 6.8% in the previous year. This is the highest allocation in two decades, with ₹4.49 lakh crore spread across 49 Union Ministries and departments. It reflects a strong commitment to creating a more supportive and empowering environment for women and girls. Further strengthening this commitment, 12 additional central Ministries – many from non-conventional sectors such as railways, ports, shipping and waterways, land resources, pharmaceuticals, and food processing industries – have integrated gender budgets, reflecting a whole-of-government approach to gender mainstreaming.

As in the Periodic Labour Force Survey, India's female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) measured at usual status has steadily risen, reaching approximately 42% in 2023-24 from 33% in 2021-22. This is approaching the global average of 47%, as reported by the International Labour Organisation. However, a 37-percentage point gap remains when compared to men's labour force participation of 79%. Achieving the ambitious target of 70% women's participation in economic activities by 2047 necessitates increased investment in skilling, employment, entrepreneurship, access to productive resources, and social security entitlements – areas that the Budget has acknowledged through its various schemes. Key initiatives such as the Skill India Programme, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP), National Skill Training Institutes, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), PM Employment Generation Programme, PM Vishwakarma, and Krishonnati Yojana have seen a combined increased allocation from ₹1.19 lakh crore to ₹1.24 lakh crore this year. Approximately 52% of these funds are directed toward women and girls. Additionally, new schemes such as the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, first-time entrepreneurs' scheme, sustainable livelihood for urban workers initiative, and Centres of Excellence for Make in India, will play a critical role in fostering women's workforce participation.

> Gender-responsive budgeting can help India's women to become key drivers of national growth

A focus on gig workers

With 90% of India's working women engaged in the informal sector, the Budget's proposal to formalise gig workers by issuing identity cards and registering them on the e-Shram portal is a significant step. This initiative has the potential to empower millions of women by providing them with formal identity, access to social security entitlements, and financial inclusion benefits.

While the gig economy has offered women financial independence and flexible work arrangements, it often comes with low wages, job insecurity, and a lack of employment rights, including maternity benefits. The enforcement of labour codes and the provision of comprehensive social security measures, including progressive parental entitlements across informal and formal sectors, will be critical to ensure women's economic security.

The establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the education sector and a dedicated ₹600 crore gender budget under the India AI Mission, demonstrate the government's intent to harness AI for social good. As technological advancements redefine the future of work, investing in digital education, skills, and enterprise training for women will be imperative to ensuring equitable outcomes in the workforce and benefits for the entire economy.

A diversity of economic roles

Financial institutions must recognise women's diverse economic roles, particularly in agriculture, entrepreneurship, and employment. For example, simplifying documentation requirements for economic and social security provisions, such as delinking Kisan Credit Cards from land ownership, would help women farmers avail loans and credit facilities that they can use to improve crop yields, productivity and expand their agricultural and allied operations. Tracking access and usage of such schemes through gender-disaggregated data would further enhance their effectiveness.

As per the government's Udyam portal, 20.5% of the micro, small and medium enterprises are women-owned employing about 27 million people. Unlocking finance for women-owned enterprises through collateral-free loans, alternative credit scoring models, and targeted financial literacy programmes will catalyse economic growth. Bain and Company, and Google, claim that establishing 30 million additional women-owned businesses could generate 150-170 million jobs, accounting for over 25% of the job creation needed for India's working-age population by 2030.

Budget 2025-26 provides a robust foundation for advancing women's economic participation. Realising the vision of Viksit Bharat requires sustained efforts in policy implementation, infrastructure development, and social norm transformation. By ensuring gender-responsive budgeting, strengthened social protection, and by fostering a labour market which includes both women and men, India can pave the way for women to become key drivers of national growth, ultimately achieving the ambitious target of 70% women in economic activities by 2047.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AI, the job market

With a large and growing population, India faces significant employment challenges. The advent of AI could exacerbate these issues. Once hailed as a major job creator, the IT sector has seen a decline. This serves as a cautionary tale about the impact of technological advancements. While AI has advantages, it is also essential to acknowledge its limitations and boundaries. The Prime Minister's speech at the AI Action Summit in Paris seems to be overly optimistic (February 12).

C. Raghavan,
Chennai

Pages of history

I happened to read the Editorial in this daily, "India with Indonesia" (January 27), which prompted me to rummage through some old papers that my father had. My father, (the late) T. Govindarajulu, joined the editorial department in 1944, and was posted to Singapore as *The Hindu*'s Staff Correspondent in 1946. He was the only Indian correspondent to have covered the Renville talks between the Dutch and the Indonesians under the auspices of the United Nations in 1947.

Lakshmi Raghavan,
Chennai

Domestic cricket

The interview with Saurashtra cricketer Sheldon Jackson, who announced his retirement after a successful career in domestic cricket, underlines the greatness and value of the well-structured Indian domestic cricket system, especially the Ranji Trophy, which gave cricket a pan-India impetus. If the longest format of the game has to survive, then the cradle of Indian cricket cannot be overlooked.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Implications of the AI Diffusion Framework

Ashwin Prasad

Research Analyst in the High-Tech Geopolitics Programme at The Takshashila Institution

The Biden-Harris administration unveiled a flurry of policies in their last week in office. The most extraordinary among them is the Framework for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Diffusion. It has many goals: preserving U.S. hegemony in AI technology, balancing innovation and national security, and deterring U.S. adversaries from harvesting the strategic rewards of AI. These goals signal the U.S.'s strategic vision for AI, heralding its transformative potential to advance economic prowess and military dominance in the coming years.

Mechanism of the framework

Compute capacity using advanced AI chips is a key infrastructure necessity in developing advanced AI systems. Leveraging the U.S.'s dominance in chips and the AI supply chain, the framework extends the prevailing export controls to cover the entire gamut of AI technology stack, including AI chips, chip-making tools, and closed AI model weights – the key to a trained AI system's learning and decision-making abilities.

Countries are placed in three tiers, each subject to different levels of restrictions. The first tier comprises key allies, irreplaceable in the AI supply chain. They are unconstrained in their freedom to import AI technology. The third tier covers key adversaries such as Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran. The framework perpetuates the entire spectrum of export controls and prevents the diffusion of advanced AI systems to these countries. The second tier encompasses the rest of the world, including India. The framework establishes a system of limited access to these countries. Companies from the U.S. can tap into the commercial opportunities of AI in these countries as long as they maintain only a tiny share of their total compute capacity there and safeguard against unauthorised access.

The prevailing export controls have always been restrictive against U.S. adversaries. At first glance, this framework seems to extend some of these restrictions on all but closest allies and partners. Indeed, major allies such as Austria and Israel and other strategic partners such as India are not exempt from the rules. However, the limits and caps imposed are free-handed in satisfying any near-term demand for AI chips from anyone but the countries of concern. Even the export restrictions on model weights are for closed models that far exceed any existing advanced AI systems. So, it will be business as usual in the short term.

The entire system is designed to ensure that if advanced AI systems that are more powerful and capable than the prevailing ones are ever developed, it will happen only in trusted American geographies. The framework will likely succeed in its objectives in the short term and accrue the benefits of cutting-edge AI to the U.S. and its closest allies. But it will influence and reshape the global technological and strategic landscape in the long term.

Through a series of executive actions, the U.S. has mandated the concentration of global AI technological capabilities within its borders and those of allied countries. American companies seeking to establish frontier-scale AI capabilities outside the U.S.– whether motivated by lower costs or more favourable policies – will now face significant barriers. Even among key allies exempt from export controls, this policy sets a concerning precedent of unilateral American executive action that could potentially deny them their strategic priorities in the future.

These allies and American corporations will likely hedge against such possibilities, developing contingency plans to protect their technological interests and maintain competitive advantages. In fact, as AI technology advances in the long term, the likelihood increases that America's plans may yield unintended consequences. Countries, including U.S. allies, will become more motivated to develop independent supply chains and sovereign AI innovation to circumvent U.S. technological constraints. This could fragment the global AI ecosystem that the U.S. currently dominates.

Eroding goodwill with India

The policy framework disadvantages India, positioning it less favourably than anticipated. By discouraging the development of cutting-edge AI systems beyond U.S. borders, the framework may disincentivise investments and operations of Indian subsidiaries of leading American AI companies. This could create conditions that risk drawing away India's pool of top AI talent and impeding knowledge transfer and technological innovation within the country. This could be a major point of contention for India, given the implications on its technological and economic interests.

The framework evaluates India solely by its technological capabilities in AI, while ignoring the strategic value of the India-U.S. partnership. It also disregards the substantial social capital built between the two countries through recent technology cooperation, including advances in semiconductor manufacturing collaboration. Instead, it serves as a stark reminder of the U.S.-led technology denial regimes that restricted India's access to nuclear technologies for three decades following its nuclear tests.

There is a disconnect between America's export control policies and its strategic partnership with India regarding Indo-Pacific cooperation and shared goals of countering Chinese influence in the region. This misalignment risks undermining the bilateral relationship both nations have carefully cultivated in recent years. It could compel India to hedge against its technological and economic dependence on the U.S.

The Framework for AI Diffusion evaluates India solely by its technological capabilities in AI, while ignoring the strategic value of the India-U.S. partnership

Reopening fiscal wounds

The Union Budget has left the Kerala government deeply disappointed

STATE OF PLAY

Tiki Rajwi
tiki.rajwi@thehindu.co.in

The Union Budget sparked anger in Kerala over the Centre's "continued neglect" of the State on the fiscal front. For some time now, there has been deepening distrust between Left Front-ruled Kerala and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre in the financial realm. The Kerala government has repeatedly accused the Centre of initiating lopsided policies that have worsened the imbalances in the sharing of revenue resources and of weakening cooperative federalism.

The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) criticised the Budget for "ignoring" the State. Predictably, the Kerala unit of the BJP was quick to describe the Budget as a windfall for Kerala. But its narrative was drowned in the controversy which erupted over Union Minister George Kurian's remark that if the State wanted more funds, it should perhaps declare itself backward in terms of infrastructure, education, and social welfare so that the Finance Commission can make helpful recommendations.

Apart from demanding again a ₹24,000 crore special economic package for overcoming financial distress, the Kerala government also pleaded for a ₹2,000 crore package for relocating the survivors of the landslides that occurred in July 2024 in Wayanad, and for ₹5,000 crore of special assistance for the Vizhinjam port project, which it calls a game-changer for maritime trade. These requests were ignored.

Kerala's Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal described the Union Budget as "extremely disappointing" and said that it lacked a pan-India perspective that was sympathetic to the diverse needs of the States. Expectedly, the State Budget presented by him on February 7 allocated the first tranche of ₹750 crore for the landslide-affected people of Mundakkai and Chooralmala in Wayanad. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment document prepared by experts had estimated the cost of post-landslide reconstruction and rehabilitation to be ₹2,221 crore.

The Railway Budget, too, left the State disappointed. Although Kerala has been allocated ₹3,042 crore for developing rail infrastructure, none of the projects specifically demanded by it, including long-pending ones such as the Nilambur-Nanjangud line or the Sabari rail, were announced.

The Left's narrative that Kerala has been punished yet again for its hard-earned progress in sectors such as education, health, and social welfare was inbuilt in the criticism. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan again accused the Modi government of failing to honour the federal principles upheld in the Constitution.

This is the latest episode in the long-drawn-out struggle between Kerala and New Delhi over what the southern State describes as its dwindling allocation from the divisible pool and unfair curbs on borrowings. Kerala had moved the Supreme Court last year, challenging the Centre's decision curtailing its borrowing capacity. Before the 16th Finance Commission's tour of Kerala in December 2024 for drafting recommendations, the Left government hosted a conclave of Finance Ministers of non-BJP-ruled States for establishing common ground on shared fiscal grievances.

Kerala has repeatedly drawn attention to its divisible tax pool share that has shrunk from 3.88% under the 10th Finance Commission to 1.92% under the 15th Finance Commission. In the face of diminishing central transfers, Kerala has, however, managed to improve its own-tax and non-tax revenues, though it faces tough financial questions that have no easy answers. The NITI Aayog Fiscal Health Index 2025 placed Kerala among "aspirational States" that have "consistently" faced fiscal challenges over the past nine years. "These States face high debt, large interest payments, weak revenue generation, and inefficiencies in capital expenditure, with reliance on non-tax revenue impacting their fiscal health and rankings," said the report, which ranked States for the 2023 fiscal. It termed "low quality of expenditure" and "debt sustainability" as two of the significant challenges in Kerala's path.

It remains to be seen how the 16th Finance Commission, which is expected to submit its recommendations by October 31, 2025, will play out for Kerala and its tax devolution concerns. That said, it is evident that delicate negotiations on the financial front with the Centre will continue to be the State's top priority, at least in the short term.

A 11-year high of 55% urban residents report stagnant income in 2025

Concerns over stagnant income levels overshadowed optimism about reduced expenses among urban consumers

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Urban consumers in India began the new year with both hope and concern. On the one hand, India's retail inflation eased to a five-month low of 4.31% in January, providing some relief to consumers by reducing the pressure on their household expenses. On the other, worries about the employment scenario continued to weigh on them. Income levels too have been stagnant – in January, 55% of urban consumers reported that their income levels had remained unchanged compared to the same period last year. This is the highest such share in nearly 11 years.

As concerns over stagnant income levels overshadowed any optimism about reduced expenses, a growing share of urban consumers remained pessimistic about the broader economic outlook as the new year began, says the Reserve Bank of India's Consumer Confidence Survey, which was conducted across 19 major cities in January. It covered 6,081 respondents, of which 52.4% were women.

Chart 1 shows the share of respondents who said that the prices of commodities had increased/decreased/stayed the same in January 2025 compared to a year ago. The share of respondents who reported an increase in prices in January this year (93%) was the lowest since July last year. Around 1% of the respondents said that prices had declined, which has been the case since the pandemic. An increasing share said that prices had continued to remain the same.

Chart 2 shows the spending perception on essential items. The 87.6% who said that spending on essential items had increased was the lowest since September 2024. Less than 2% of the respondents felt that spending on essential items had declined, aligning with the past trend. Close to 11% felt that it had remained the same.

Chart 3 shows perceptions of spending on non-essential items. There was a slight increase in the share of respondents who reported that their spending on non-essential items had remained unchanged compared to a year ago. The share of those who stated that their spending had increased declined marginally in January 2025.

Overall, on the spending front, conditions have slightly improved or have at least not deteriorated further, as reflected in Charts 1, 2, and 3.

Chart 4 shows perceptions of income levels. The share of respondents who reported that their income levels had remained unchanged compared to a year ago reached a record high in January. There was a decrease in the share of respondents who indicated a decline or an increase in their income.

Chart 5 shows urban consumers' perceptions of employment. About 42.7% reported a decline in job opportunities compared to a year ago. Following the sharp drop in the employment sentiment during the pandemic, there had been a steady recovery since, with an increasing share of respondents reporting improved job opportunities. However, this trend reversed in mid-2024, as pessimism about the job market began to grow. This pessimism has deepened further in the current year.

Charts 4 and 5 reveal growing challenges on the income front. Job opportunities are becoming increasingly scarce, and those who are employed are grappling with stagnant income levels, highlighting the mounting financial pressures faced by urban consumers.

Pessimism over stagnant income levels has had a significant impact on consumers, with 43% of them stating that the overall economic situation had worsened in January compared to the same period last year. This is the highest such share in at least a year **(Chart 6)**.

Mixed **feelings**

The data for the charts were sourced from the RBI's Consumer Confidence Survey - January 2025

Chart 1: Share of respondents (%) who said that the prices of commodities had increased/decreased/stayed the same

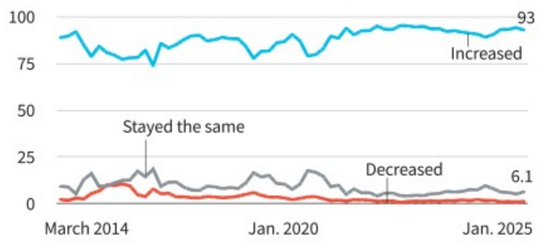


Chart 2: Share of respondents (%) who said that the spending on essential items had increased/decreased/stayed the same

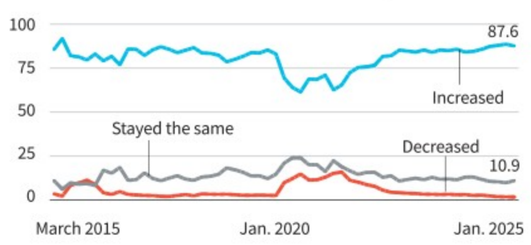


Chart 3: Share of respondents (%) who said that spending on non-essential items had increased/decreased/stayed the same

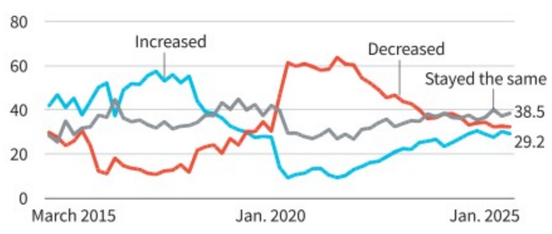


Chart 4: Share of respondents (%) who said that their income levels had increased/decreased/stayed the same

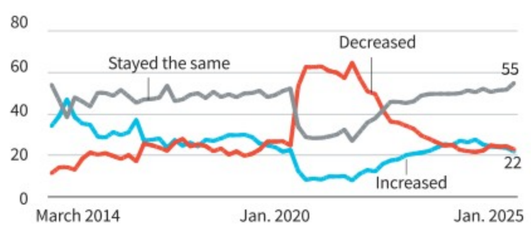


Chart 5: Share of respondents (%) who said that job opportunities had improved/worsened/stayed the same

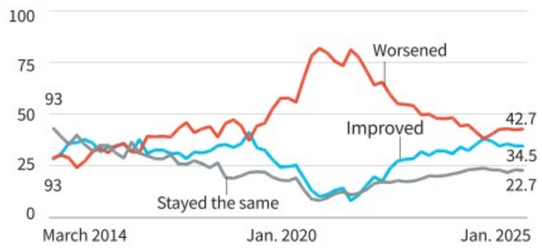
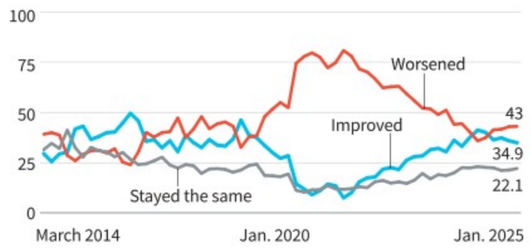


Chart 6: Share of respondents (%) who said that general economic situation had improved/worsened/stayed the same



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1975

U.S. Congress probe into hiring of military trainers

Washington, Feb. 12: Rising unemployment in the U.S. and the lure of high pay and adventure in exotic lands is persuading a number of American ex-servicemen, who had fought in Vietnam, to seek jobs as military mercenaries in Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The latest disclosures show that a 1,500-strong American private force, commanded by a former Major-General, is in Iran to help create a helicopter strike force known as the Iran Sky Cavalry Brigade. It will be modelled after a similar American unit that fought in Vietnam.

The Bell Helicopter International, a private American company which has a five-year contract with the Iran Government to provide this tactical training force, is a sister firm of the Bell Helicopter Company, which sold over 450 attack helicopters to Iran two years ago.

Though the U.S. Government is not involved in this particular training contract, it was revealed early this week that another private company, the Vinnell Corporation of California, had a $77 million (Rs. 61.6 crores) contract with the U.S. Defence Department to provide a 1000-man special force unit to train Saudi soldiers to protect their oil fields from invasion by foreign troops.

Both Saudi Arabia and Iran have been buying huge quantities of arms from the U.S. with their oil riches, and some of the weapons supplied are so modern and sophisticated that even the U.S. armed forces have not started to use them.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1925

Indians in E. Africa

Bombay, Feb. 12: Opposition to an Indian official being sent out to East Africa to inspect an area in the Lowlands of Kenya for Indian Colonisation, was voiced by Mr. C.F. Andrews who was interviewed this afternoon by the Associated Press. The African population of Kenya, said Mr. Andrews, needed all available lands for their expansion and their paramount interest should be respected, for too much land had already been alienated from them in the Highlands and if possible some of this land ought to be recovered for African use, because Native reserves were already proving too small.

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SCAN TO LOCATE A DEALERSHIP NEAR YOU

From Page One

Retail inflation eases to five-month low of 4.31%

Although non-food inflation inched up to a 13-month high of 3.2%, this was still within the comfort zone, Mr. Joshi said. Vegetables inflation more than halved to 11.3% in January from 26.6% in December, but fruits inflation spiked to 12.22%, and edible oils became 15.6% costlier than a year ago, marking a 33-month high.

Vegetables, eggs cheaper

The five items that recorded the highest inflation in January were coconut oil (54.2%), potatoes (49.6%), coconut (38.7%), garlic (30.7%), and peas (30.2%). Kerala and Odisha reported the highest inflation rates in the country at 6.76% and 6.05% respectively, while Delhi (2.02%) and Telangana (2.22%) recorded the mildest price pressures for their residents.

"The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of January is mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, egg, pulses and products, cereals and products, education, clothing and health," the National Statistics Office said. Food inflation trends varied for urban and rural India, with cities reporting a 5.5% rise in prices, while rural areas still faced a higher inflation of 6.3%.

IMEC gains traction as PM meets Macron

The small modular reactors are factory-fabricated nuclear reactors that are smaller in size and capacity than the conventional nuclear reactors.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron jointly inaugurated the new Indian Consulate General in Marseille on Wednesday. Marseille will host the Mediterranean edition of the flagship discussion event of the Ministry of External Affairs - Raisina Dialogue - this year where stakeholders from multiple sectors are expected to participate.

After the inauguration of the Consulate General in Marseille, Mr. Modi recounted India's ties with Marseille as Indian soldiers were based there during the World War I. The joint statement recognised the "strategic location" of Marseille in the Mediterranean Sea, and the role that the port city will play in supporting "connectivity, sustainable growth trajectories and access to clean energy".

The Foreign Secretary said the bilateral discussions between the two sides were held during the Paris-Marseille flight, and covered areas such as space, civil nuclear cooperation, health and people-to-people relations. He announced that the AI Action Summit in Paris accepted India's proposal and accordingly, the next big global summit on AI would be held in India.

Sajjan convicted in 1984 dual murder case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday convicted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a dual murder case stemming from the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

The 79-year-old faces a maximum of death penalty and a minimum of life term in prison.

"Prosecution has been able to prove its case against the accused [Kumar] beyond reasonable doubt," Special Judge Kaveri Baweja said, convicting the former parliamentarian for the offences of murder, rioting, dacoity, and arson. The judge posted the arguments for the sentencing on February 18.

Kumar was produced in court from the Tihar jail.

The case relates to the killing of S. Jaswant Singh and his son S. Tarundeep Singh, both residents of Raj Nagar, Delhi, at the hands of an unruly mob comprising thousands of persons during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Do you intend to continue as Minister: SC to Senthilbalaji

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked Tamil Nadu Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise V. Senthilbalaji to give a straight-forward answer in "yes or no" whether he intends to continue as a Minister while facing trial in money laundering proceedings linked to a cash-for-jobs 'scam'.

"We are asking you, with all this you are facing, do you want to continue as a Minister? Answer 'yes' or 'no'... We know this will be a very difficult question for you to answer," Justice A.S. Oka, heading the Bench, addressed senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and advocate Ram Sankar, appearing for Mr. Senthilbalaji.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for the State, said the Minister had been given a 'Hobson's choice'. "I was in jail for one year. Cases were piled upon me when I was in jail. After imposing stringent conditions on me [for bail], I have been appearing every alternate day before the court... I am hardly working as a Minister," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

Mr. Senthilbalaji is accused of playing a "central and pivotal role" in receiving kickbacks for jobs in the Metropolitan Transport Corporation of Chennai and Tamil Nadu State Corporation during his tenure as Transport Minister.

Congress slams Centre over Adani project near border

Party asks PM to explain if rules were changed to allow infrastructure projects in border areas; he endangered security to benefit billionaires, rules relaxed on other border areas too, says Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday asked the Narendra Modi-led Union government to come clean on the claims made in a news report that it had changed the rules regarding land allocation near international borders to help the Adani Group build a renewable energy park in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch at the India-Pakistan border.

Reacting to an investigation by *The Guardian,* Congress leaders said the government's move jeopardised national security, and asked the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister to "explain why such a drastic step to compromise our national security was taken".

Neither the government nor the Adani Group has responded to the news reports and the comments made by the Opposition party.

Boon or bane? Solar panels installed at the Adani Green Renewable Energy plant at Khavda in Kutch district of Gujarat. AFP

Protocols changed

The investigation by *The Guardian* said the Adani Group is setting up a solar plant and building the world's largest renewable energy park at Khavda in Kutch, barely a kilometre from the Pakistan border.

Earlier security protocols did not allow any construction in the area, but the Gujarat government wrote to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) before April 2023, seeking permission for infrastructure projects to be built on the land near the border, reported the British newspaper.

Its report claimed that a "confidential meeting" was convened in Delhi on April 21, 2023 to discuss the matter. At that time, the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) was in possession of the land that was leased out by the Gujarat government.

The Guardian further reported that by May 8, 2023, the Centre had changed the protocols to allow infrastructure projects. By August 2023, the Adani Group was in charge of the land in the Rann of Kutch, the paper added.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the pseudo-nationalistic face of the ruling BJP has once again been unmasked.

'Endangered security'

"Narendra Modi*ji*, you have endangered national security at our borders in order to benefit private billionaires. Is it true that you have gifted precious strategic land, just 1 km near the International Border with Pakistan, to your 'dear friend' by relaxing border security rules?" Mr. Kharge asked in a post on X.

"Is it not true that your government has relaxed such rules, not just at the India-Pakistan border, but also on the land adjoining Bangladesh, China, Myanmar and Nepal, thereby jeopardising our strategic and border security?" the Congress chief asked.

Mr. Kharge reiterated the concerns of defence officials quoted in the news report about the possible need "to lay mines or put in place anti-tank and anti-personnel mechanisms".

"Why would you allow a huge private project within easy striking distance of the India-Pakistan border, thereby increasing the defence responsibilities of our armed forces and reducing their strategic advantages?" he asked.

'PM must explain'

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal asked the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister to explain the need for a change in the rules. "Are we trying to make our energy system a sitting duck against our adversaries? Are military experts who have spent decades protecting our nation mere puppets who can be sidelined? The Modi government's cronyism is a threat to our national security," Mr. Venugopal said in a post on X.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked: "Has the process of handing over all the resources of the country to the Prime Minister's 'friend' reached such a point that even the border security rules are being changed?"

Stalemate continues in Manipur over successor to Biren

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The BJP in Manipur struggled to select a successor to caretaker Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh for the third straight day on Wednesday.

Sambit Patra, the MP in charge of the party's affairs in the Northeast, met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla for the third time in three days. Neither the Raj Bhavan nor the BJP issued any statement on what transpired during their meeting for more than an hour.

Mr. Patra, who continued his one-to-one meeting with the legislators of the BJP and its allies, declined to speak to journalists after emerging from the Raj Bhavan.

However, BJP legislator Karam Shyam dismissed speculation about the imposition of the President's Rule in the ethnic conflict-scarred State. "Contrary to the hypotheses, there will be no constitutional crisis. We have reasons to believe our central leaders will resolve the matter in consultation with the party's State unit," the MLA representing the Langthabal constituency said.

A senior BJP leader in Imphal said the party's central leadership, including Home Minister Amit Shah and national president J.P. Nadda, could meet the State's legislators in Delhi soon to finalise a consensus candidate for the Chief Minister's post.

N. Biren Singh

In the 60-member Manipur Assembly, the BJP has 32 MLAs, including seven from the Kuki-Zo community who have stayed away from the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley since violence broke out on May 3, 2023, claiming at least 250 lives and displacing some 60,000 others.

Warning note

Amid the political crisis, pressure groups have begun to show their frustration. Ph. Nando Luwang, the president of the influential All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation, said the imposition of President's Rule or keeping the State Assembly in suspended animation would not make any difference to the people of the State at this juncture.

"However, we will not remain passive if there is any threat to Manipur's territorial integrity," he said, obliquely referring to the demand for a separate administration by the Kuki-Zo organisations.

Centre's new Immigration Bill likely to have provisions denying entry to foreigners

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, which is expected to be introduced in the current session of Parliament, is likely to introduce for the first time, threat to national security and sovereignty as grounds to deny entry or stay to a foreign national in the country. It may also have provisions to bar the entry of a foreigner on basis of relations with a foreign state.

The proposed law could make the decision of the Immigration Officer final and binding. Earlier, too, foreigners were denied entry but the clause was not explicitly mentioned in any legislation or Rules.

The Bill is likely to repeal and replace the Foreigners Act, 1946; Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920; and the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 – the three laws brought close to the First and Second World Wars. The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000 will also be repealed.

The four Acts had overlapping provisions and a necessity to repeal the Acts and enact a new comprehensive law was felt.

The proposed legislation was also framed to avoid overlapping of laws with relation to passports or other documents of persons entering or exiting India, including the requirement of visa and registration.

The Bill may also define functions of the Immigration Officer. Obligations of universities and other educational institutions, and those of medical institutions with regard to admitting foreigners may also be covered by the Bill. It is likely that the Bill will include provisions on burden of proof upon such persons to prove that they are not foreign nationals.

Although the Bureau of Immigration already exists, with the passing of the Bill, Immigration Officers and the bureau may get adequate legal backing.

The legislation could propose imprisonment of five years, or fines up to ₹5 lakh or both, for entering India without valid documents. Using or distributing fraudulent travel documents may invite punishments such as two years' imprisonment, which may be extended to seven years. A fine of not less than ₹1 lakh, which may stretch to ₹10 lakh, may also be proposed.

Public Accounts Committee asks Centre to review toll tax rule for National Highways

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, headed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, at a meeting held on Wednesday, directed the government to review the existing rules that decide the toll tax on National Highways.

The panel began deliberations on the subject of "Levy and regulation of fees, tariffs, user charges etc. on public infrastructure and other public utilities".

The current toll taxes are levied based on the base rate of fee per kilometre as prescribed by the NH Fee Rules, 2008. Since vehicular traffic on the road has exponentially increased since 2008, the panel directed the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, V. Umashankar; National Highways Authority of India Chairperson Santosh Kumar Yadav, and other officials who deposed before the panel, to review the rules.

The House panel is headed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal.

"The base rates should be lowered considering there are more vehicles plying on the road and, therefore, the revenue collection is higher," one of the panel members said.

The members also flagged that many of the concessionaires do not keep their side of the agreement, which includes maintenance of the road, identifying high-risk intersections, managing black spots, and providing passenger amenities, including rest stops, and medical help in case of accidents.

The long traffic jams at the toll gates, despite the introduction of FASTags, were also discussed. The example of Paliyekkara Toll Plaza at the Thrissur-Edapally section of National Highway 544 was also cited, as the concessionaire was not following the agreement.

The Centre has said it is now running a pilot project with "Automatic Number Plate Recognition" at select highways.

HC seeks Centre's reply over women's reservation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to respond to a plea challenging the validity of Article 334A(l) of the Constitution, which prescribes delimitation as a prerequisite to give effect to reservation of seats for women in Parliament.

The court issued notice to the Ministry of Law and Justice as well as Attorney General, the highest law officer in the country, on the plea questioning why women's reservation should be deferred until the delimitation was complete.

Average of ₹57 lakh spent by each candidate on LS poll campaign: data

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Maximum limit of poll expenses was revised in 2022, considering a rise in total electors, cost inflation index, and virtual campaigns

Candidates in the 2024 Lok Sabha election each spent an average of ₹57.23 lakh for campaigning, according to an Atlas on last year's general election released by the Election Commission of India on Wednesday.

While the Congress's Shashi Tharoor reported the highest individual expenditure of ₹94.89 lakh, the Trinamool Congress's Pratima Mondal spent only ₹12,500.

'Inbuilt red flags'

Speaking at the release of the Atlas, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar reiterated that the polling data system was robust, with inbuilt "red flags" to ensure that "nothing can go wrong".

Lakhs of officials, including booth-level officers, feed data into the system. "As a design, nothing can go wrong... The system throws up red flags," he said, adding that this makes the EC "extremely confident" that nothing can go wrong. If someone makes an error, the system will not accept it, he said.

The Opposition, led by the Congress, has been raising concerns about unusual numbers of additions and deletions in voters lists in some States like Maharashtra.

Highs and lows

According to the Atlas, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi spent ₹92.82 lakh on his campaign trail in Wayanad.

Three Karnataka MPs – Sunil Bose, B.Y. Raghavendra and E. Tukaram – were on the list of 15 MPs with the highest campaign expenditure. DMK MP from Coimbatore, Ganapathy Rajkumar P., was in the ninth position, having spent ₹92.96 lakh on his campaign. Those who kept their expenditure low, included Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid, who spent ₹2.10 lakh, and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, who spent ₹20.67 lakh.

The amount of money candidates are permitted to spend on their campaigns is subject to a ceiling. The maximum limit of election expenses was revised in 2022, owing to a rise in the number of electors, cost inflation index, and virtual campaigns.

Govt. set to introduce new Income Tax Bill today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government is all set to introduce a new Bill to reform the income tax laws on Thursday, the last day of the first part of the Budget Session.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had mentioned it during her Budget speech on February 1.

The report of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill is also likely to be tabled on Thursday.

The panel has already submitted the report on the Bill to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Navy eyes fleet of 400 planes to boost maritime security

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi with Union Minister Sanjay Seth. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Charting a future course to strengthen its air capability, the Indian Navy has outlined plans for a fleet of 400 aircraft to bolster maritime security and enhance its capability in both combat and civilian roles.

Over the next two decades, the Navy aims to induct a range of indigenously developed light, medium, and heavy-lift aircraft into its Naval Air Arm.

The "Atmanirbhar Indian Naval Aviation Technology Road map, 2047" envisions a modernised fleet, including a fifth-generation twin-engine deck-based fighter aircraft to replace the current fighter fleet.

The document also highlights the induction of long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft to monitor the Indian Ocean Region, medium and short-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, aircraft carrier-borne airborne early warning and control aircraft, and amphibious aircraft.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi and Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth released the document at Aero India here.

While Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. is developing a twin-engine chopper under the Utility Helicopter Maritime (UHM) programme, the Navy says it is exploring options for other original equipment manufacturers to design and develop the helicopter independently or through joint ventures. Multi-role helicopters, heavy-lift helicopters, and uncrewed aerial systems, including UAV platforms, will be the areas of focus.

The Navy is planning to induct into its fleet the medium-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft C-295 indigenously manufactured by TATA Advanced System Ltd..

"New non-state actors have been deploying capabilities in the sea for the past four to five years and there is a need to address the new environment on sea and rapidly developing tech space," Admiral Tripathi said.

Army has to evolve new concepts to align with emerging trends: CDS

General Anil Chauhan calls for investing in technology and ideas if 'we want to compete' with the Western countries or align with them; says warfare has become complex and multi-dimensional

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Jet across: The IAF's Surya Kiran team displaying manoeuvrers during Aero India event in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan made the comments at the event. K. BHAGYA PRAKSH

Arguing that aligning technology with future warfare is not the only way forward, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Wednesday said the Army has to evolve new concepts, doctrines, organisations (theatre command), culture, and processes to align itself with the emerging trends in warfare and battleground.

"Warfare has become complex and multi-dimensional. Aligning technology to the future warfare is not the only answer but it is a part of the answer," he said at a seminar on "Aligning technologies to future conflicts", organised as part of Aero India here.

"Application of emerging technologies in combat is still some distance away," he said.

"We know that these technologies are going to influence warfare in future but in what shape we may not be able to understand fully," he said. He gave examples of the role of artificial intelligence with autonomous weapons and sixth-generation aircraft in future warfare that are yet to be known.

'Adapt and adjust'

"Army has to adapt, adjust, and accommodate the emerging technologies. You have to evolve new concepts, doctrines, organisations, culture, and processes," he said.

General Chauhan emphasised the need to change the processes that are made to acquire the product and said, "By acquiring a product you are actually behind five or 10 years because that product already exists. We have to invest in technology and ideas if we want to compete with the West or align with the West."

General Chauhan also referred to the disruptive technologies such as quantum science and artificial intelligence that could change the face of warfare.

"Earlier, war was rational because it was a thoughtful decision and finite, as negotiations and politics would take over after the war. Now, it has become irrational and perpetual. Combat earlier was seen between humans that could change to humans against machines or machines against machines. Technology can drive tactics and vice versa," he said.

India may revive plan to procure six more P-8I aircraft from U.S.

Dinakar Peri
BENGALURU

It is expected to figure in the talks between Prime Minister Modi and U.S. President Trump

India is looking to revive the proposal to procure six more P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft from the U.S. and the matter is expected to figure in the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, sources in the know said.

Other big-ticket deals in the pipeline with the U.S. that could figure in the talks are the co-production of General Electric F414 jet engines and Stryker infantry combat vehicles in India under technology transfer.

The Navy had projected a requirement for more P-8Is sometime ago but it was deferred for a few years. The P-8I, which can hunt submarines lurking in the deep oceans, is the primary platform for the Indian Navy for long-range surveillance and has become particularly critical as the Chinese naval presence has significantly expanded in the Indian Ocean Region.

India is keen to procure six additional P-8Is and preliminary discussions have commenced regarding pricing and other aspects, two sources in the know confirmed. There is a possibility that the intent to commence discussions could find mention among the outcomes of Mr. Modi's visit, the sources added.

India has contracted 12 P-8Is in two batches, eight under a $2.2-billion deal in 2009 and four more in 2016, under the optional clause in a deal worth over $1billion.

Deal in 2021

Subsequently, the Navy was keen on 10 more aircraft but that got truncated later and in November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of six aircraft. In May 2021, the U.S. State Department approved the possible sale of six additional P-8I aircraft and related equipment, a deal then estimated to cost $2.42 billion.

Complementing the P-8Is will be the MQ-9B Sea Guardian High Altitude Long Endurance UAVs that the Navy will begin receiving from January 2029. Last October, India signed a nearly $3.5-billion contract for 31 MQ-9B, under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme of the U.S. government.

SC to hear pleas on CEC appointment law next week

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday shifted the hearing on petitions challenging the legality of a new law which gives a dominant role to the Union government in the appointment process of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners to February 19.

Incumbent CEC Rajiv Kumar is scheduled to retire from office on February 18.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, which is one of the petitioners, indicated to a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N.K. Singh that the case was time-sensitive due to the impending retirement of Mr. Kumar.

Justice Kant, however, assured Mr. Bhushan that the "consequences" of the court's decision on the validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act of 2023 would inevitably follow even if something had happened in the interregnum.

The petitions against the new law will be heard on February 19. FILE PHOTO

The petitioners had told the court that they ideally wanted a decision on the law before the appointment of the next CEC.

Court's authority

In January, when the case came up, Justice Kant had highlighted that the test regarding the validity of the 2023 Act would hinge on whether the court's authority to pronounce binding decisions under Article 141 of the Constitution could be circumvented or diluted by a law. "The real test here is between the court's opinion and exercise of legislative powers," he had said.

The petitions raise the pivotal legal question whether Parliament possessed the authority to promulgate a gazette notification or Ordinance to nullify or amend a Constitution Bench judgment.

Petitioners, including activist Jaya Thakur, have claimed that the law was introduced in December 2023 to dilute a Constitution Bench judgment in the *Anoop Baranwal* case on March 2, 2023.

'Modi must bring up tariffs, deportations in talks with Trump'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi must raise the issue of "2Ts – tariffs and traumatic deportation" during his talks with U.S. President Donald Trump, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday. Mr. Modi will visit the White House for a bilateral meeting with Mr. Trump on Thursday.

On tariffs, Mr. Kharge said that President Trump's recent announcement of a 25% tariff on aluminium and steel imports with "no exemptions, no exceptions" for any country, had serious repercussions for India's manufacturing sector. The U.S. is the biggest market for these two metals.

Steel tariff woes

According to Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik, India only exports a small proportion of the total steel produced here to the U.S. Out of 145 million tonnes of steel produced in India last year, just 95,000 tonnes was exported to the U.S. The fear, though, is that the U.S. tariffs will increase competition and exacerbate oversupply in other steel producing markets.

"We must build closer trade ties for both countries with a mutually beneficial framework, given that the U.S. is one of our biggest trading partners," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

The Congress chief also noted that the recent deportation of Indian migrants – who were sent back to India in a military aircraft in handcuffs and chains – had raised strong concern among all Indians. "Mr. Modi must stress that any Indian national must not be humiliated and must be treated with utmost dignity," he said.

All Indians recognise the valuable comprehensive global strategic partnership with the U.S., he said.

Pranab Mukherjee's son returns to Congress

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Former President Pranab Mukherjee's son Abhijit Mukherjee returned to the Congress on Thursday after a four-year stint in the Trinamool Congress.

"This is like a second birthday for me in the Congress and in politics. As the grandson of a freedom fighter [Kamada Kinkar Mukherjee], it was a bad decision to quit the Congress. I ask forgiveness for it. I should not have left the Congress," Mr. Mukherjee said at his formal induction ceremony here.

After formally signing his membership, the former Congress MP waved the party flag in the presence of West Bengal Congress president Subhankar Sarkar, AICC general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir, and other leaders.

'Ignored in Trinamool'

During his stint in West Bengal's ruling party which began in 2021, Mr. Mukherjee was not given any important role and was hardly seen at events. He was ignored during the selection of candidates for the Rajya Sabha election.

Government of Rajasthan
National Health Mission, Rajasthan
Department of Medical, Health & FW, Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur
Tel. No. 0141-2221590, Email ID: md-nrhm-rj@nic.in

F32(177)/NHM/CSR/H&WC/Desktop/2021-22/461 Date: 06-02-2025

INVITATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

E-Bids for 'Supply, installation & commisioning of IT equipments' are invited from recognized bidders by or before 2:00 p.m. on 27.02.2025. The details and other particulars of the bid are available for perusal, downloading and further actions on the State Public Procurement Portal **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** & the department websites **https://rajswasthya.nic.in** and **https://rajswasthya.rajasthan.gov.in**.
UBN No. :- MHS2425GLOB04763

(Dr. Bharti Dixit)
DIPR/C/1735/2025 Mission Director, NHM

Department of Handlooms
THE TAMILNADU COOPERATIVE TEXTILE PROCESSING MILLS LTD., C.H.22
428, BHAVANI MAIN ROAD, ERODE-638004. Tel: 0424-2293907. E-mail:tctpmill2015@gmail.com
Ref.No.A/O/1441/2025 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Date:13.02.2025
E-Tenders with two cover system are invited from eligible bidders for the Supply of Textile Dyes, Processing Chemicals/Auxiliary Chemicals for processing of Cotton as well as Man Made Fabrics for the year 2025-2026 in accordance with terms and conditions detailed in the Tender Schedule

S. No.	Variety of Items	Required Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Required quantity	Date and time available of Bid document in web portal	Last date and time for receipt of online submission of filled Bid documents	Date and time of online opening of Bids		Supply Period
						Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1	VAT Dyes	2,00,000	As per the Tender Schedule	13.02.2025 to 17.03.2025 upto 9.30 a.m.	17.03.2025 upto 10.30 a.m	17.03.2025 at 11.30 a.m	Will be intimated later	Upto 31.03.2026 or upto finalisation of next tender whichever is later
2	Disperse Dyes	1,00,000						
3	Chemicals (Group A)	1,00,000						
4	Auxiliaries (Group A)	50,000						
5	Chemicals & Auxiliaries (Group B)	50,000						
6	Chemicals & Auxiliaries (Group C)	25,000						

Eligibility of the Tenderer and other conditions are stipulated in the Bid document.
1. Complete E-Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the Government tender website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
2. E-Tender Documents: Tender Schedule-I-Supply of Textile Dyes, Processing Chemicals and Auxiliary Chemicals for the year 2025-26 (S.No.2025- 26/ D&C /001)
3. The Bidders have to participate through online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class III.

DIPR/543/TENDER/2025 **Deputy Director / Administrator / Tender Inviting Authority**

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh undertaking)
Head Office : 3rd Floor, P.V.S. Land Mark, Near APIIC Towers, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, AP-522503 :: LL.no.:: 08645-297211 & 08645-297221
E mail : vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in, vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com, Website: www.apfdcl.com

EUCALYPTUS DEBARKED PULPWOOD SALE NOTICE
Ref. No.OP.001/EDPW/2024-25/Gen/1353 **Date: 11.02.2025**
Sale of about **4.06 lakh metric tonnes** of **Eucalyptus Debarked Pulpwood** anticipated from Eucalyptus Plantations of A.P. Forest Development Corporation Limited, grouped into 45 units of sale is proposed to be held through e-tender cum e-auction on "Konugolu", a Govt. of Andhra Pradesh e-Portal i.e., "https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in" from 12.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs (1st spell) and from 15.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs (2nd spell) on 28.2.2025. Sale Units remaining unsold/ unconfirmed will be exposed for sale again on 12.3.2025 & 21.3.2025. **Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 20.2.2025 at 3.00 PM in APFDC Head Office, Mangalagiri.** For more details, please visit the websites: https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in & https://www.apfdcl.com

Sd/- Dr. Rajendra Prasad Khajuria, IFS.,
DIPR 3524PP/CL, Dt:12/02/2025 **PCCF/Vice Chairman and Managing Director**

"e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA : WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: qualitycontrol02@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. 05/CE/RDQP/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer, RD & QP (R&B), Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor ofOdisha invites online bids / tenders in double cover system from eligible and reputed / ISO Certified Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or their Authorized distributors /dealers in double cover system for supply of various equipment / machineries/ as listed below to Research Development & Quality Promotion (RD&QP) (R&B) wing, Works Department, Government of Odisha.
2. Nature of work : **Procurement of Machineries / Equipment** (Vehicle mounted Falling Weight Deflectometer(VFWD), Non-Destructive Testing Equipment (9Nos) for setting up of Non-Destructive Testing Laboratory)
3. No. of work : **02 Nos.**
4. Tender Paper Cost : **Rs.10,000.00**
5. Type of Bidder : **Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)/ Authorized Distributor / Dealer of OEM**
6. Availability of bid document in the website : **From 11.00 AM of 12.02.2025 to 5.30 PM of 12.03.2025**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.13.03.2025 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum of the tender can only be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer, RD&QP (R&B), Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA,NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-927: OIPR-34001/11/0008/2425

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)
दिनांक/Dt. 13-02-2025
ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.
1. वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एटीएफ अतिथि-गृह (ए, बी, एवं सी-ब्लॉक) का रूफिंग शीट का प्रतिस्थापन। (सिविल कार्य) / Replacement of damaged roofing sheets in A, B and C blocks of ATF Guest house, VSSC, Thumba (Civil works)./ **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/35/2024-25 Dt. 11.02.2025 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.: ₹103.09 लाख/Lakhs)**
2. वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एटीएफ अतिथि-गृह ए-ब्लॉक के कमरों का पुनर्सज्जीकरण (सिविल कार्य) / Refurbishment works in A block rooms of ATF Guest House, VSSC, Thumba (Civil Works)/ **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/36/2024-25 Dt. 11.02.2025 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.: ₹78.13 लाख/Lakhs)**
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 13.02.2025, 10.00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 26.02.2025, 23.00 बजे/hrs
योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in. **Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Through KPP Portal Only)
BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.		
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/11996/2024-25		**Dt:11.02.2025**
1	Work of Laying of 230mm dia SW line and 300mm dia RCC NP3 class pipeline in place of 150mm dia SW line at Ibbalur Village coming under Bellandur S/stn. of AEESE-5 sub division **(Call-2).**	**Rs. 120.99 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2,00,000/-**
For the above work, Last date for receipt of tenders : **27.02.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Technical bids will be opened on: **28.02.2025 after 16.00 Hrs.** **Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)**		
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.		
IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/1184/2024-25		**Date:12.02.2025**
2	Work of Providing and Laying of 300mm dia, 200mm dia and 100mm dia DI-K-9 pipeline to fill the Eco-Friendly treated water to Gunjur Palya Lake from 90 MLD Bellandur STP coming under the jurisdiction of EE(WWM-STP-K&T) Valley Division.	**Rs. 324.74 Lakhs** / **Rs. 4.87 Lakhs**
For the above work, Last date for receipt of tenders : **24.02.2025 upto 16:30 Hrs.** Technical bids will be opened on: **25.02.2025 at 17.00 Hrs.** **Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-East)**		
Office of The Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009		
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/3666/2024-25		**Dated:07.02.2025**
3	Work of Supply, Installation and Commissioning of PC controlled Fully Automated Multi-parameter Water Quality Anaysis in Water testing Laboratory under EE(QA) division.	**Rs. 171.57 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2,57,500/-**
For the above work, Last date for receipt of tenders : **27.02.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Technical bids will be opened on: **28.02.2025 at 16.05 Hrs.** **Sd/- Chief Engineer(Design & QA)**		

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. **DIPR/CP/JA/4993/2024-25**

INBRIEF

Ram temple priest Mahant Satyendra Das passes away

Mahant Satyendra Das, the chief priest of Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, died on Wednesday. He was 85. The octogenarian was admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences earlier this month after suffering a brain stroke. The mortal remains of Das were taken to his residence in Ayodhya. His successor said: "We are waiting for all his disciples to arrive. It is expected that he will be given a 'water burial' on Thursday afternoon." Condoling the demise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the priest's entire life was dedicated to the service of Lord Ram. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath termed his death an irreparable loss to the spiritual world. PTI

Mumbai man dies due to GBS; Maharashtra toll rises to eight

Mumbai reported its first death due to the Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), raising the death toll in Maharashtra to eight. A 53-year-old man from Korba Mithagar in Antop Hill (F North ward) in Mumbai passed away due to the disorder. According to a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation statement, the man had no symptoms of fever or diarrhoea but was detected with high blood pressure. GBS cases have crossed the 200 mark. The State now has 203 patients. Of these, 176 patients have been confirmed to have GBS. Of the eight deaths, four deaths were confirmed due to GBS, and four were reported as suspected deaths.

Because of freebies, people don't want to work: SC judge

Justice B.R. Gavai questions whether unregulated welfare schemes discourage the poor from contributing to development; the court was hearing pleas dealing with the lack of night shelters

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice B.R. Gavai on Wednesday asked whether untrammelled freebies lull the poor into a parasitic existence, depriving them of any initiative to find work, join the mainstream, and contribute to national development.

"Rather than making them contribute to the development of the nation, are we not creating a sort of parasite? Because of these benefits, people do not want to work," Justice Gavai, heading a Bench comprising Justice A.G. Masih, observed orally.

The Bench was hearing petitions dealing with the lack of a sufficient number of night shelters to house the urban homeless in the national capital. A lawyer submitted that the existing night shelters were uninhabitable.

"Between a shelter, which is uninhabitable and sleeping on the road, what is more preferable?" Justice Gavai countered.

The discussion in court also touched on free rations and welfare schemes for the urban homeless, who were usually migrants from the rural parts of the country in search of work.

Other options: Justice Gavai says steps to make the poor part of the mainstream were better than offering them freebies. FILE PHOTO

Justice Gavai said steps to make the poor and the disadvantaged part of the mainstream were better than offering them freebies.

"Nobody wants to work for they will get a free ration... We have recognised the rights to shelter and work. But at the same time, should it not be balanced?" he asked.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing on the petitioners' side, submitted that the rural poor migrate to urban parts for work. "They have come to the city to find work. The jobs they get are menial... They cannot even afford shelter," Mr. Bhushan addressed the Bench.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, for the Centre, informed the court that the government was framing schemes to help alleviate urban poverty. These schemes would include shelter for the urban homeless.

The court directed the Centre to file an affidavit in six weeks, detailing the time required to finalise and implement the schemes, and what aspects they would cover.

Appearing for the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), senior advocate Devadutt Kamat submitted that night shelters were well-provided for, and officials do the rounds to convince the homeless to come to these shelters, they, however, refuse to do so.

The top court has been looking out for the welfare of the poor and homeless, noting that the right to shelter and safety was a fundamental right.

In 2016, the top court had observed that the city's poor shiver in the winter cold as welfare measures, including the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) scheme, continued to remain a distant dream.

At the time, the court had directed a Committee headed by a former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Kailash Gambhir, to be constituted to verify the availability of night shelters, and whether their operations were in compliance with the NULM's guidelines.

Mr. Bhushan had submitted that the total capacity of shelter homes in Delhi was only around 17,000 persons, and the DUSIB had demolished nine shelter homes. Mr. Kamat responded that six temporary shelter homes were destroyed due to floods in the Yamuna in 2023 and had been abandoned since June 2023.

TRAI tightens rules against spam calls and text messages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Legitimate business messages will now have further disclosure requirements.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Wednesday notified tighter rules for spam calls and text messages over telecom networks. Under the fresh amendment to the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018, telcos are required to accept complaints against spam after up to a week of receiving such calls, act on unregistered telemarketers faster (within five days), and impose lower tolerance thresholds for reported spammers.

Legitimate business messages will now have further disclosure requirements. "Customers will be able to identify the type of commercial message by just looking at its [SMS sender] header as "-P", "-S", "-T", and "-G" will be suffixed for identification of promotional, service, transactional, and government messages, respectively," the TRAI said.

Repeated violators will face further action. "For the first violation of the regulatory threshold, outgoing services of all telecom resource[s] of the sender will be barred for 15 days," it said. "For subsequent violations, all telecom resources of the sender, including PRI/SIP trunks, will be disconnected across all access providers for a period of one year and the sender will be blacklisted."

Financial disincentives of ₹2 lakh-₹10 lakh have also been prescribed for telcos who misreport the spam complaints they receive from users. Recent steps taken by telcos to block spam calls using artificial intelligence have now been baked into regulation. "Access providers are mandated to analyse call and SMS patterns based on parameters such as unusually high call volumes, short call durations, and low incoming-to-outgoing call ratios," it said. The DND (Do Not Disturb) app has been updated. The app allows users to report SMS and call spam to their telcos.

Over 19 million people take holy dip on Maghi Purnima at Maha Kumbh

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

More than 19 million people took a dip in the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati, till 6 p.m. on Wednesday on the occasion of Maghi Purnima as part of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

"This is a tribute to public faith. Salutation to the eternal consciousness of Sanatan. There is respect for the unity and equality of India. Hail Mother Ganga!" Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said in a post on X.

Uttar Pradesh Director-General of Police Prashant Kumar said that by learning lessons from the stampede on Mauni Amavasya, the successful completion of the Maghi Purnima bath was ensured.

Sacred unity: Devotees take a holy dip at the Sangam on Maghi Purnima, in Prayagraj, on Wednesday. PTI

"Today was the fifth *snan* of Maha Kumbh 2025, with the Maha Shivratri *snan* being the final one. Taking lessons from the unfortunate incident on Mauni Amavasya, the approach of 'Build Back Better' was adopted to ensure even more efficient management. Community feedback from officials and devotees present at the site was incorporated to enhance arrangements, leading to safe and smooth participation," Mr. Kumar said.

However, amid the influx of millions of pilgrims, chaos and congestion prevailed in the entire Maha Kumbh area and the Prayagraj region.

The Samajwadi Party accused the State Police of misbehaving with devotees stuck in traffic jams.

"U.P. Police is misbehaving with devotees stuck in the jam due to the mismanagement of the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) government. In Sultanpur, the S.O. (Station Officer) pushed the devotees stuck in the traffic jam, constables beat them with sticks, [they] misbehaved with women. Condemnable and shameful. On the basis of the video, strict action should be taken against the accused S.O. and constables," the Opposition party said, sharing a video in which some police personnel can be seen getting into an altercation with a few people.

Amid the influx of millions of pilgrims, chaos and congestion prevailed in Maha Kumbh area and Prayagraj region

Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) engage in war of words after Pawar felicitates Shinde

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

A political war of words emerged between the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) on Wednesday, a day after senior leader Sharad Pawar felicitated Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Both parties are part of the Indian National Democratic, Inclusive Alliance in the State.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, miffed over the felicitation, sent out messages of a rethink on the current political dynamics.

"We consider this as the felicitation of Amit Shah. Even we understand Delhi politics, respected Pawar Saheb," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said in Delhi on Wednesday.

Crisis brews: Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde being felicitated by NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, on Tuesday. ANI

"The political dynamics of Maharashtra has changed. One will have to rethink about who is bowling a googly to whom and who is a hit wicket. Sharad Pawar should not have attended that programme [of the felicitation of Eknath Shinde]. You are a senior leader and I respect you. But the one who weakened Maharashtra and destroyed the Shiv Sena formed by Balasaheb Thackeray, you have honoured him. It has pained the heart of Maharashtra," Mr. Raut said.

NCP (SP) leaders advised Mr. Raut to manage his own party's business. "When Uddhav Thackeray went to congratulate Ajit Pawar for becoming the Deputy Chief Minister, none of our leaders expressed any sentiments in the public about it. Certain boundaries are to be observed in politics," NCP (SP) MP Amol Kolhe said.

'Wrong information'

The two parties were at loggerheads throughout the day.

Mr. Raut also corrected Mr. Sharad Pawar over his statement on the contribution of Mr. Shinde to the development of Thane.

"I think, the wrong information has reached Sharad Pawar Saheb. The development of Thane was done by Shiv Sena, under the vision of Balasaheb Thackeray. Thane's downfall started after Eknath Shinde was elected from there," he said.

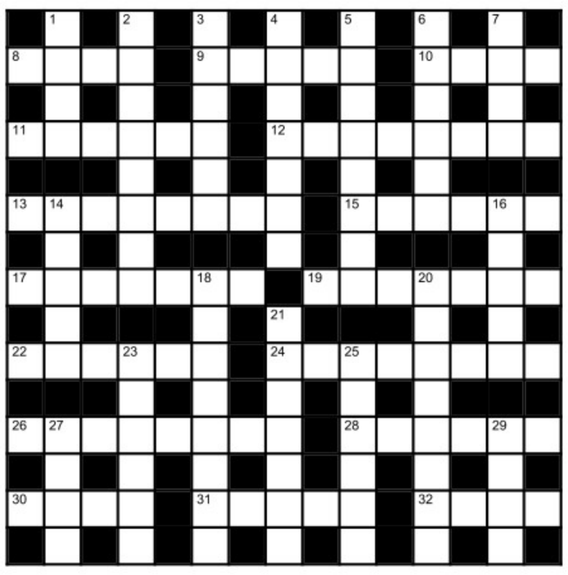
Meanwhile, Shiv Sena Shinde group leaders Naresh Mhaske and Uday Samant paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Sharad Pawar on Wednesday, further accentuating the bitterness.

TH CROSSWORD + 14407

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Woman loves commencement of suits in courts (4)
9 Speak slowly, "Sketch lion's head" (5)
10 Lido reconstruction yields religious statue (4)
11 Gold coin melted does include copper (6)
12 Writes, "In other words, scarlet dinghies" (8)
13 Violent Asians capture SS killer (8)
15 Only carrying pen, with tip of nib missing, without hiding (6)
17 A variety of frogmen present at mouth of estuary (7)
19 Religious traveller's public interest litigation? Serious? (7)
22 Reach a train, having lost direction, after time (6)
24 Intimate friend's large toe is broken (5,3)
26 Sweet air circulates, so to say (2,2,4)
28 Doctor unremorseful after leaving sermon? Sorry! (6)
30 That lady gets nothing for the leading man (4)
31 Card suit groups (5)
32 Consumes minced sausages releasing a gas (4)

Down

1 Works without right kitchen utensils (4)
2 Kiss rather large curate after changing direction (8)
3 Nowadays, gangster bosses produce accessories (3-3)
4 Tramp's tirade after Virginia gets gold (7)
5 Happy garlic-oil sauce doesn't have American flowers (8)
6 Trap one tipsy English corsair (6)
7 For example, Bordeaux wine (4)
14 Author's fast (5)
16 Telling stories in bed? (5)
18 Using wrong tense in front of new church results in punishment (8)
20 Stunning ravine ahead of round American (8)
21 Extract and kill (4,3)
23 Writer's god is after gold (6)
25 The iron oxide releases energy to provide propulsion (6)
27 Carelessly searched wrongly? Drop! (4)
29 Fertiliser mentioned in Agriculture Act (4)

SUDOKU

7	4		1	8		2		3
					3			9
	1				7	4		
		5		9			7	
			6		1			
	2			7		3		
		4	7				3	
2			5					
5		3		1	9		2	6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6429 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	5	6	2	9	7	8	4
2	4	9	3	8	7	1	5	6
6	8	7	1	5	4	9	2	3
4	7	2	9	1	3	8	6	5
9	6	3	8	4	5	2	1	7
1	5	8	2	7	6	3	4	9
7	3	1	5	6	8	4	9	2
8	9	6	4	3	2	5	7	1
5	2	4	7	9	1	6	3	8

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FAITH

Guru Ravidas, the reformer

Guru Ravidas was a 15-16th century Bhakti poet regarded as a contemporary of Kabir and is believed to have met Guru Nanak. Guru Ravidas firmly and steadfastly stood up for those on the marginalised in society and fought against Brahmanical hegemony, dogma, ostentation, oppression, superstition and ritualism. He tried to reform the casteist and discriminatory practices dominant in that period, said Prof. Kumool Abbi.

He was a voice of the oppressed and the subaltern. Born in a family of leather tanners, a profession he nobly practiced and considered his *keerat* (vocation), loftily continuing it all his life. His thought, poetry, and life in practice reflected this constant struggle to bring about social change by stirring the consciousness of the masses. He was consumed by the love of the divine. Forty-one *shabads* of Ravidas bani have been included in the Shri Guru Granth Sahib in the form of different ragas. Similarly the Panchvani texts of the Dadupanthi tradition have incorporated some of Guru Ravidas's texts. His works contain the common thread of an unflinching devotion to God who is projected in an abstract form as *Nirguna* (without attributes). It is believed that Meera Bai, Queen Jhallan Bai of Chittorgarh and Raja Nagar Mel of Banares were his devotees.

The most significant aspect as we commemorate Ravidas Jayanti is his contemporary relevance. He is a personification of Dalit identity and its subsequent crystallisation, and expression. An icon of progressiveness and activism, Guru Ravidas visualised an ideal society of Begumpura where no sorrow, discrimination would exist.

INBRIEF

RBI lifts business restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday lifted the business restrictions placed on Kotak Mahindra Bank, following satisfactory remedial action. In April 2024, the regulator had restrained the bank from onboarding new customers via online and mobile banking channels, and issuing fresh credit cards. The bank subsequently initiated remedial measures to address the supervisory concerns and submitted compliances, the RBI said.

Ashok Leyland Q3 net profit grows 36% to ₹762 crore

Ashok Leyland Ltd. reported 36% growth in Q3 consolidated net profit to ₹762 crore compared with ₹560 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue from operations grew 6% to ₹10,375 crore as against ₹9,806 crore. The company said it had achieved an export volume of 4,151 units against 3,128 units in the same period last year, up 33%. During the quarter, it turned cash positive with net cash of ₹958 crore as against net debt of ₹1,747 crore in the same period last year.

Bharat Forge Q3 net profit slides 16% to ₹213 crore

Bharat Forge Ltd. reported 16% decline in Q3 consolidated net profit to ₹213 crore from ₹254 crore in the year-ago period. Consolidated revenue from operations for the period ended December 31, 2024 slid 10% to ₹3,476 crore from ₹3,866 crore in the same period last year. On a standalone basis, net profit fell 8% to ₹346 crore from ₹378 crore a year earlier. Standalone revenue from operations fell 7% to ₹2,096 crore from ₹2,263 crore in the same period last year.

As PM Modi lands in U.S., Musk's Starlink steals a march into Bhutan

U.S. satellite-based internet service provider announces availability in Bhutan, expected to be used by institutions in remote mountainous regions; officials say future of Starlink's plans for India could come up for discussion during the PM's U.S. visit

Suhasini Haidar
THIMPHU

Even as all eyes are on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington for talks with U.S. President Donald Trump and his key advisors, Elon Musk's Starlink has stolen a march into South Asia by setting up in neighbouring Bhutan first.

The announcement came as the U.S. satellite-based services company Starlink updated its product availability map on February 12, making Bhutan the 121st country in the world to join its footprint.

India has thus far not provided Starlink permission to operate, mainly over security and privacy concerns, as well as pricing issues and concerns from the local telecom and satellite industry.

Call waiting: India has thus far not provided Starlink permission to operate over security concerns, as well as pricing issues. AP

As PM Modi arrived in Washington for a 24-hour visit, officials said the future of Starlink's plans for India could come up for discussion.

Thus far, telecom officials have said they are reviewing the "security arrangements in place for the ground stations" from which Starlink traffic would flow to users in India, and regulatory processes remain underway.

"While optical fibres would be the primary medium for global connectivity, with geographical interconnection difficulties and Bhutan being landlocked, it is important for us to have alternative channels and technologies for global connectivity. Starlink opens that possibility to be globally connected and we are excited to have the Starlink connection in Bhutan," Bhutan's top tech innovator, Ujjwal Deep Dahal, CEO of Druk Holding and Investments Ltd., the Bhutanese Government's commercial arm told *The Hindu* in Thimphu.

However, Mr. Dahal, who is also on the board of local telecom major Bhutan Telecom, indicated that it would be necessary to ensure that Bhutan's national communications infrastructure remained sustainable.

(With inputs from Aroon Deep in New Delhi)

IIP growth skids to four-month low of 3.2%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output growth dropped to a four-month low of 3.2% in December, with manufacturing and mining sectors rising just 3% and 2.6%, respectively, and consumer non-durables' production slipping 7.6% from a year ago.

Electricity generation was up 6.2% year-on-year and 4.7% over November 2024 levels. The National Statistics Office (NSO) also downgraded the industrial production growth assessment for November 2024 to 5% from 5.2% estimated earlier. This brings the average factory output growth in the third quarter of 2024-25 to 3.95% from 2.73% in the second quarter. Five of six industrial segments based on the end-use of products, recorded an uptick in December, led by capital goods (up 10.3%) and consumer durables (8.3%). Infrastructure and construction goods rose 6.3, while intermediate goods and primary goods grew 5.9% and 3.8%, respectively.

Consumer non-durables remained a worry, with production shrinking 7.6% in December and the mere 0.6% growth estimated for November being revised downward to 0.4%. However, output levels for these consumption-linked items were at an 11-month high in December and 5.1% over November. In fact, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was at a nine-month high of 157.3 points, 6.1% over November. The Manufacturing as well as the Mining sectors recorded their best index reading in this fiscal year.

"This casts a doubt on a material recovery of industrial activity in the second half of the current fiscal. The 7.6% contraction in consumer non-durables outlines the continued weakness in household demand and consumption," noted Suman Chowdhury, executive director and chief economist at Acuité Ratings & Research.

ICRA's chief economist Aditi Nayar said the December IIP growth was lower than expected, and it could moderate further to 2%-3% in January.

DGGI detects fraudulent ITC transactions worth ₹1,196 cr.

Press Trust of India
PUNE

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has unearthed fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) transactions amounting to ₹1,196 crore and arrested a person. After searches at multiple locations in Pune, Delhi, Noida and Muzaffarnagar, the DGGI probe showed the accused had set up shell entities that generated fake invoices and e-way bills.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	76,171	-0.16
US Dollar	86.95	-0.18
Gold	87,960	-0.38
Brent oil	75.92	-1.04

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2353.45	31.70
Adani Ports	1128.95	-11.15
Apollo Hosp	6374.55	57.20
Asian Paints	2228.25	-12.60
Axis Bank	1006.90	-0.50
Bajaj Auto	8711.60	-50.40
Bajaj Finserv	1788.70	43.85
Bajaj Finance	8214.05	22.85
Bharat Elec	259.15	-5.90
Bharti Airtel	1711.55	14.80
BPCL	255.60	0.45
Britannia Ind	4918.30	14.25
Cipla	1449.20	-3.95
Coal India	360.35	1.35
Dr Reddys Lab	1215.85	6.05
Eicher Motors	4849.45	-122.90
Grasim Ind	2484.95	-6.50
HCL Tech	1717.30	-5.90
HDFC Bank	1706.80	5.40
HDFC Life	629.15	10.55
Hero MotoCorp	4015.75	-69.80
Hindalco	598.90	3.05
Hind Unilever	2332.50	17.25
ICICI Bank	1251.80	-0.95
IndusInd Bank	1039.65	-14.50
Infosys	1863.15	-12.50
ITC	409.90	-8.40
JSW Steel	956.40	1.90
Kotak Bank	1943.95	25.35
L&T	3289.65	50.00
M&M	2987.20	-98.75
Maruti Suzuki	12655.55	-68.80
NestleIndia	2193.75	-1.75
NTPC	306.25	0.65
ONGC	237.40	-1.55
PowerGrid Corp	257.05	-4.40
Reliance Ind	1216.55	-18.30
SBI Life	1452.15	33.15
State Bank	733.15	2.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.	547.15	8.60
Sun Pharma	1693.85	-5.90
TataConsumerProduct	1029.75	15.95
Tata Motors	684.35	6.60
Tata Steel	132.28	2.17
TCS	3950.15	-13.40
Tech Mahindra	1680.20	11.10
Titan	3255.45	-26.35
Trent Ltd.	5237.30	8.95
UltraTech Cement	11478.50	178.30
Wipro	310.20	-2.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.69	87.01
Euro	89.92	90.25
British Pound	107.87	108.28
Japanese Yen (100)	56.41	56.62
Chinese Yuan	11.86	11.91
Swiss Franc	95.13	95.49
Singapore Dollar	64.05	64.30
Canadian Dollar	60.57	60.80
Malaysian Ringitt	19.38	19.48
Australian Dollar	54.41	54.61

Source:Indian Bank

Need to improve liquidation outcomes: IBBI chairman

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairman Ravi Mital said there is a growing need to improve liquidation outcomes under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (IBC) Code, 2016.

"It is observed that till December 2024, in the completed liquidation cases, the amount realised by claimants has been very low as compared to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), and in some cases it has been even lower than the liquidation value," he said in the IBBI's quarterly newsletter for October-December 2024.

The main objective of the IBC is resolution of distressed companies. However, when all attempts to resolve the company fail, the next alternative is liquidation of the company involving sale of assets of the company and distribution of the proceeds thereon among the stakeholders, Mr. Mital said in the newsletter.

"In 2017-18, for every company that was resolved, five companies would go into liquidation. However, in 2024-25 [till December 2024] for every company that is resolved, 1.3 companies go into liquidation. Therefore, there is a visible trend reversal in the number of companies going into liquidation under the code," he said.

While the liquidation process has undergone important course corrections over the years, there is scope for further improvement, Mr. Mital added.

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(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
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E-Mail ID : olicltd123@bsnl.in, olicltd@ymail.com; http://odishalift.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
No. IT- 09 /2025 - 987 / OLIC, Dated - 06.02.2025

The Managing Director, OLIC Ltd., Bhubaneswar invites online tender in percentage rate through e-procurement for installation, electrification, energisation & commissioning of deep bore wells in Nuapada and Dhenkanal districts of Odisha state. Interested Bidders may visit website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** to view and download Detailed Tender Call Notice and bid documents. The bids should be submitted only online in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Important features of this NCB are as under :

A.	Brief description of Work	: Installation, electrification, energisation & commissioning of Deep borewells in Nuapada & Dhenkanal districts (05 Packages)
B.	Estimated cost of works	: Varies from **Rs.638.38 Lakhs to Rs.1723.85 Lakhs**
C.	Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	: **From dt.12.02.2025 to dt.10.03.2025** (up to 17.00 Hours)
D	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the Portal	: **dt.10.03.2025 up to 17.00 Hours**
E.	Last date of seeking clarification	: **dt.25.02.2025 up to 17.00 Hours**
F.	Technical Bid will be opened on	: **dt.11.03.2025 at 11.00 Hours.**

Any Addendum/ corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender will be available in the said website.
Authority reserves the right to accept /reject any or all the tenders, increase or decrease the quantities of work put to bidding without assigning any reasons thereof.

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
OLIC LTD, BHUBANESWAR

CAD-2495: OIPR-32135/11/0017/2425

KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices,
Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Kalaburagi-585 102.
Tel. & Fax No. 08472-260502, Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSP), 77609 92029 (S.O).

No. KKRTC/CO/COSP/ 12 /2024-25 Dated: 10.02.2025

TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Tenders through KPP portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply of following items.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Date	Tender Nomenclature	Value
1	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0106	10.02.2025	Procurement of Liquid Urea AUS-32 (Adblue)	Rs. 14.51 Crores
2	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0112	10.02.2025	Procurement of Non-Amino Coolant Oil	Rs. 1.02 Crores
3	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0114	10.02.2025	Procurement of Automotive Grease	Rs. 3.81 Crores
4	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0113	10.02.2025	Procurement of Body Worn Camera	Rs. 0.07 Crores
5	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0109	10.02.2025	Procurement of Vinyl Flooting mat	Rs. 0.39 Crores
6	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0108	10.02.2025	Procurement of Aluminum Sheets & Extrusion	Rs.1.02 Crores
7	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0110	10.02.2025	Procurement of FRP Front Show, Panel & Dashboards	Rs. 0.41 Crores
8	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0107	10.02.2025	Procurement of Wheel Bolt,Nuts and axle studs	Rs. 0.59 Crores
9	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0111	10.02.2025	Procurement of NRC Engine spares	Rs. 2.83 Crores
10	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0115	11.02.2025	Procurement of Clutch and clutch parts	Rs. 5.92 Crores
11	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0116	11.02.2025	Procurement of Rubber Parts	Rs. 0.92 Crores
12	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0117	11.02.2025	Procurement of Gaskets	Rs. 1.32 Crores
13	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0118	11.02.2025	Procurement of Cylinder Liners	Rs. 0.15 Crores
14	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0119	11.02.2025	Procurement of Fuel injection pipe and leak off pipes	Rs. 0.36 Crores

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/. Mail to cospnekrtc@gmail.com or support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. Further, any addendum / corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.

Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/942/KSMC&A/2024-25

Cancer Screening Rates in India are Low – What's Stopping Us?

Cancer screening plays a critical role in early detection and better survival outcomes. However, in India, screening rates remain alarmingly low, raising concerns about disparities between men and women. The perception that women are screened more often than men stems from the presence of structured breast and cervical cancer screening programs. But does this translate to significantly higher screening rates?

Are Women Screened More Than Men?

Data suggests that screening rates are low for both genders. According to NFHS-5, among women aged 30-49, only 2.2% in urban vs 1.7% in rural areas have ever undergone cervical cancer screening, and only 1.2% in urban areas vs 0.7% in rural areas have ever undergone a breast examination. In comparison, 1.2% of men in the same age group have undergone an oral cancer screening (1% in urban areas vs 1.3% in rural areas). While breast and cervical cancer screening programs exist, participation remains abysmally low. Meanwhile, cancers with high male prevalence – lung, oral, and stomach cancer – lack structured screening efforts altogether. This means that neither gender is being screened adequately, making poor screening coverage a systemic issue rather than a gender-specific one.

"Early-stage cancers often have no symptoms. That's why regular cancer screening is key. Screening can mean the difference between routine treatment and a tough battle."

Dr T Raja
Director - Medical Oncology
Apollo Cancer Centre, Chennai

Poor Cancer Screening Rates and its Challenges

India does not have a nationwide, organised cancer screening programme for various cancers, relying instead on opportunistic screenings, which often miss those at high risk. The result? Most cancers in India are diagnosed at advanced stages, drastically reducing survival rates. These are some of the challenges faced:

- **Poor Cancer Registries:** As per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's National Cancer Registries Programme, India has 36 Population-Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs) and 236 Hospital-Based Cancer Registries (HBCRs). However, only 28 PBCRs and 58 HBCRs are active registries reporting complete data.
- **Underreporting and Incomplete Data:** Cancer is not a notifiable disease, meaning healthcare providers are not legally required to report cases. This results in incomplete data collection and underreporting, particularly from smaller healthcare facilities.
- **Economic and Social Barriers:** Fear, stigma, and lack of awareness prevent many from getting screened. Add to that the fact that rural areas often lack screening facilities and so high out-of-pocket costs make screenings unaffordable for many, especially without government support, forcing lower-income individuals to deprioritise preventive care.

Bridging the Screening Gap

- **Make Cancer Screening Gender-Inclusive:** Implement structured lung, oral, and stomach cancer screening programs, similar to breast and cervical cancer programs.
- **Improve Public Awareness:** Large-scale awareness campaigns to educate people on why and when to get screened.
- **Enhance Accessibility:** Expand screening centres beyond urban areas and integrate screening with routine health checks.
- **Strengthen Cancer Registries:** Make cancer a notifiable disease, ensuring accurate data for better policymaking.

Encouragingly, the government has taken steps to strengthen cancer prevention efforts. The Union Budget 2024-25 introduced plans to promote HPV vaccination for girls aged 9-14, and in the Union Budget 2025-26, the government announced its intention to broaden cancer screening initiatives to encourage early diagnosis. With continued focus and effective execution, India can build on these advancements and further close the cancer screening gap, ensuring early detection benefits everyone.

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
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A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in

WASHINGTON

U.S. Senate confirms Tulsi Gabbard as Director of National Intelligence

AFP

Tulsi Gabbard was confirmed as the top U.S. spy on Wednesday, as Republicans lined up behind a nominee once seen as among President Donald Trump's most controversial picks. The Senate voted 52 to 48 to confirm Ms. Gabbard to the position as Mr. Trump's top adviser on intelligence issues. REUTERS

JERUSALEM

Israeli air strike targeting drone hits two persons in southern Gaza

AP

The Israeli military said it conducted an air strike on Wednesday in the Gaza Strip, targeting two people attempting to retrieve a drone that had crossed into the Palestinian territory. The military said the drone had flown from Israeli territory and was subsequently targeted by an Israeli warplane in southern Gaza. AFP

DUBAI

Moving Palestinians 'unacceptable', says Arab League chief Aboul Gheit

REUTERS

Arab League secretary-general Ahmed Aboul Gheit on Wednesday rejected any displacement of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and West Bank, calling it "unacceptable" for the region. Mr. Aboul Gheit was commenting on U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to move Palestinians out of Gaza which has been widely condemned. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump fires USAID inspector general after critical report

Donald Trump fired USAID inspector general Paul Martin after a critical report on the agency's dismantling. The report highlighted risks to $489 million in food assistance due to Mr. Trump's policies. Mr. Trump, with Elon Musk's support, has been downsizing USAID, leading to legal challenges. AFP

UN report finds rights violations under both Hasina, interim govt.

Violent elements linked to Awami League committed serious violations and abuses with the knowledge and coordination of the political leadership, according to the OHCHR team; Mohammad Yunus-led interim government welcomes the report

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has held that the deposed Awami League government of Bangladesh carried out large-scale repression during July-August 2024. The report prepared by a fact-finding team also observed that violence against minority Hindus and indigenous communities of Bangladesh took place after the fall of the Hasina government when the interim government was in charge.

Brutal suppression: Mohammad Yunus during a visit to the 'House of Mirrors', a facility allegedly run by Army intelligence in Dhaka. AFP

"Based on direct testimony from senior officials involved and other inside sources, the OHCHR was able to establish that the integrated and systematic effort using the entire range of police, paramilitary, military and intelligence actors, as well as violent elements linked to the Awami League, to commit serious violations and abuses occurred with the full knowledge, coordination and direction of the political leadership," it said.

The report also pointed out that violence against minority Hindu community and the indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) took place soon after the fall of the Hasina government. "Violent mobs engaged in serious acts of revenge violence, including killings, targeting police and Awami League officials, especially early August onwards. Some Hindus, Ahmadiyya Muslims and indigenous people from the Chittagong Hill Tracts were also subjected to human rights abuses, including the burning of homes, and attacks on places of worship," the report noted.

The Mohammad Yunus government has welcomed the report, but pointed out that the attacks by mobs against the Hindu community and the Ahmadiyya Muslims resulted from "intersecting motives". "Different and often intersecting motives drove these attacks, ranging from religious and ethnic discrimination to perceived opportunities for revenge against Awami League supporters among minorities, local communal disputes, including about land and interpersonal issues."

Putin, Trump hold phone call, agree to meet in future

Reuters
MOSCOW/BRUSSELS

Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday discussed ending the war in Ukraine, agreed to meet in the future, and Mr. Putin invited Mr. Trump to Moscow, the Kremlin said.

Mr. Putin last spoke to a sitting U.S. President in February 2022 when he had a call with Joe Biden shortly before ordering thousands of troops into Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump discussed West Asia, bilateral relations, Ukraine and a prisoner exchange between Washington and Moscow, state news agency *TASS* reported.

"The Russian President invited the U.S. President

Donald Trump

to visit Moscow and expressed his readiness to receive American officials in Russia in those areas of mutual interest, including, of course, the topic of the Ukrainian settlement," Mr. Peskov said.

"Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump also agreed to continue personal contacts."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also held a telephone call with Donald Trump on Wednesday, the presidency in Kyiv said, shortly after Mr. Trump said he spoke with Mr. Putin.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth earlier on Wednesday said that a return to Ukraine's pre-2014 borders was unrealistic and the Trump administration does not see NATO membership for Kyiv as part of a solution to the war triggered by Russia's invasion.

Speaking at a meeting of Ukraine's military allies at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Mr. Hegseth delivered the clearest and bluntest public statement so far on the new U.S. administration's approach to the war. He also told NATO allies that they would have to step up and assume greater responsibility for Europe's security.

China says it opposes 'politicising' issues involving technology

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China said on Wednesday that it opposes "politicising" issues involving technology and trade, after U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance warned that "authoritarian regimes" were seeking to use artificial intelligence for increased control over citizens.

World leaders gathered in Paris this week for an AI summit, with dozens of nations signing a statement calling for enhanced regulation of the technology to make it "open" and "ethical".

But the United States – which dominates the increasingly vital sector – did not sign the communique, along with the United Kingdom.

Leaders gathered in Paris for AI summit, with dozens of nations signing a statement calling for enhanced regulation

In a thinly veiled shot at China, Mr. Vance cautioned against cooperation with "authoritarian regimes" in AI, saying that "partnering with them means chaining your nation to an authoritarian master that seeks to infiltrate, dig in and seize your information infrastructure".

Russia to get jailed cybercrime boss in exchange for Fogel

Reuters
WASHINGTON/MOSCOW

The United States is freeing a Russian cybercrime boss from prison in return for Moscow's release of U.S. school teacher Marc Fogel, a U.S. official said on Wednesday.

The Kremlin said the deal – the first it has struck with the new administration of President Donald Trump – could help build trust between the two countries.

But it played down Mr. Trump's suggestion that the agreement could make a significant contribution towards ending the Russia-Ukraine war, which he has pledged to bring to a swift conclusion.

Alexander Vinnik was arrested in Greece in 2017 and extradited eventually to the U.S., where he pleaded guilty in May 2024 to conspiracy to commit money laundering.

He operated a cryptocurrency exchange, BTC-e, through which he was suspected of funnelling $4 billion in proceeds from ransomware attacks, identity theft, drug rings and other criminal activity.

Mr. Fogel, 63, was serving a 14-year sentence for drug smuggling after being caught at a Moscow airport with a small amount of marijuana.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance)
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

No.: BWSSB/CEK(O&M)TE/TA-01/102/2024-25/2411 Date: 11.02.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tender in two cover tender system from eligible tenderers for the work of **Construction of Quarters Building 2 Block of 06 Houses (G+2) at Tataguni.**

Amount put to tender: **Rs. 263.22 Lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 3.95 Lakhs.**

Last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **13.03.2025** upto **15:00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on **15.03.2025** at **16:00 hrs**. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)

DIPR/CP/MIA/4996/2024-25

Office of The Additional Chief Engineer PHED
Region I Jodhpur

Tele-0291-2651750 E-Mail : rj_acejo@nic.in

No.ACE/Region I/Ju/Ar. Distt./2024-25/10592-10609 Dated- 31/1/25

Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No 15-27/2024-25)

Bids for following works are invited from interested bidders upto 18.00 hrs (time) 24.02.2025 (date). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PHED department website.

NIT No.	Work Description	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Unique bid no (UBN No.)
15/2024-25	Providing fhtcs in other habitations of 7 villages of rwss kudi- fitkasani- rasidan under sub dn. Luni district dn. Ii jodhpur of tehsil & district jodhpur under jal jeevan mission	1850.68	PHE2425W-LOB08965
16/2024-25	Augmentation of rural water supply scheme birami, birdawas, minyasani and peethasani tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	707.97	PHE2425W-LOB08966
17/2024-25	Reorganization of piped water supply scheme of dhandhiya, deopura, kishana pura, rendari and vishawas tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	729.19	PHE2425W-LOB08967
18/2024-25	Reorganization of piped water supply scheme of dhundhara, lakhar thumb, ram garh, sant devaram nagar, sant likhmaram nagar tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	524.29	PHE2425W-LOB08968
19/2024-25	Proposal for piped water supply scheme for village rohilla kalla, rohilla khurd, moklawas, gangana, bujawad, boranada and basni silawata under jal jeevan mission, distt. Jodhpur with 5 year o & m and one year defect liability period	1604.87	PHE2425W-LOB08969
20/2024-25	Proposal for piped water supply scheme in 27 village connected from jhanwar section pumping station under jal jeevan mission, distt. Jodhpur with 5 year o & m and one year defect liability period	1704	PHE2425W-LOB08970
21/2024-25	Reorganization of piped water supply scheme of kuri bhagtasani tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	1150.92	PHE2425W-LOB08971
22/2024-25	Augmentation of rural water supply scheme lolawas, mortuka, moklasani tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	623.10	PHE2425W-LOB08972
23/2024-25	Augmentation of rural water supply scheme nimbla, doli, kakani, jambheshwar nagar tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	877.02	PHE2425W-LOB08973
24/2024-25	Reorganization of piped water supply scheme of nimblasar, rajor, sardargarh & krishna khera tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	676.05	PHE2425W-LOB08974
25/2024-25	Reorganization of piped water supply scheme of Sangaria tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	1757.11	PHE2425W-LOB08975
26/2024-25	Reorganization of piped water supply scheme of sar and sarechan tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	615.49	PHE2425W-LOB08976
27/2024-25	Augmentation of rural water supply scheme shikarpura tehsil luni district jodhpur under jjm	581.80	PHE2425W-LOB08977

(Dinesh Kumar Nagouri)
Addl. Chief Engineer
Phed Region (I) Jodhpur

DIPR/C/1523/2025

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SOME PRAYED.
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February 14, 2025, 6 pm onwards

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MILESTONES

Gill crosses 5000-mark, becomes fastest to 2500 runs in ODIs

VIJAY SONEJI

Shubman Gill crossed the 5000-run mark in international cricket during the third ODI on Wednesday. He also became the fastest player (50 innings) to score 2500 runs in ODIs, breaking Hashim Amla's record (51). Gill rose to the second spot in the rankings, going past Rohit Sharma and closing in on leader Babar Azam.

THE BIG GUN

India is the benchmark in ODI cricket at the moment: Buttler

VIJAY SONEJI

Despite losing the ODI series 0-3 against India, Jos Buttler was not necessarily downbeat. "We were up against a good side in their own conditions. They are probably the benchmark in ODI cricket at the moment. But I think the fact that we're not anywhere near our potential gives us something to look forward to," said Buttler.

DOUBLE DELIGHT

Rizwan and Agha ace the chase as Pakistan books a final against NZ

AFP

Skipper Mohammed Rizwan (122 not out) and Salman Agha (134) powered Pakistan to a six-wicket win against South Africa in a tri-series match at Karachi on Wednesday. **The scores:** South Africa 352/5 in 50 overs (Bavuma 82, Breetzke 83, Klaasen 87) lost to Pakistan 355/4 in 49 overs (Rizwan 122 n.o, Agha 134).

BREAKING A JINX

Guarrotxena on the double as Goa powers past Mumbai City

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FC Goa rode on Iker Guarrotxena's brace (34th and 41st minutes) and Borja Herrera's strike (64th) to beat Mumbai City FC 3-1 in Mumbai on Wednesday. The result ended Goa's 13-game winless run against the Islanders in the ISL. Lallianzuala Chhangte scored a consolation goal in added time (90+7) for the Mariners.

Sublime Gill, sizzling Shreyas lay the foundation as India pummels England

The vice-captain leads the way with a majestic century, his seventh in ODIs, while the No. 4 batter continues merry run as the Men in Blue pile up 356; Kohli finds form; the visitors implode after a quick start; Arshdeep sends back the openers before Harshit strikes crucial blows

ENGLAND IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

Perception matters. It's not just about winning matches but also how you win them. On Wednesday at the Narendra Modi Stadium, India showed, yet again, how this was done with a masterful 142-run thrashing of England in the third and final ODI.

If a settled batting unit led by the sublime Shubman Gill (112, 102b, 14x4, 3x6) put on a mammoth 356, a rejigged bowling line-up – Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav and Arshdeep Singh coming in for Varun Chakaravarthy (sore calf, precautionary), Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Shami (both rested) – dismissed England for a paltry 214 to complete a 3-0 whitewash ahead of the Champions Trophy.

For a third straight time this series, England was off to a racy start with Ben Duckett (34, 22b, 8x4) and Phil Salt (23, 21b, 4x4) scoring at 10 runs an over in the first six. But Arshdeep excised both batters in successive overs with excellent slower deliveries.

Tom Banton (38, 41b, 4x4, 2x6) and Joe Root (24, 29b, 2x4) resisted, with the former playing a couple of audacious reverse sweeps.

Masterclass: Gill played some breathtaking strokes during his 102-ball 112. VIJAY SONEJI

But Kuldeep had Banton edge behind a flighted wrong'un before Axar Patel forced Root to chop one on. When frontline pacer Harshit Rana returned to send back Jos Buttler and Harry Brook, it was all over.

After being put in to bat, India rode on Gill's seventh ODI century. It appeared like he knew the Stadium like the back of his hand, for he has now scored hundreds in all three formats here. And this reflected in the way the 25-year-old explored every area of the ground, driving, flicking, jabbing and even late-cutting his way through. Initially, Gill routinely stepped out to negate the appreciable seam movement. And once he settled, he blossomed. Speedster Gus Atkinson was straight-driven and lofted over his head while spinners Liam Livingstone and Adil Rashid were whipped, steered and milked all over the ground. Such was Gill's onslaught that 77 of the 112 runs he scored came off the trio.

If a sweetly driven boundary to the extra-cover fence off Rashid brought Gill his fifty, the hundred was had with a majestic flick to the mid-wicket fence off Mark Wood. Virat Kohli (52, 55b, 7x4, 1x6) and Shreyas Iyer (78, 64b, 8x4, 2x6) supported their vice-captain well, combining for 116 second-wicket runs and 104 for the third respectively.

Kohli was not at his imperious best but he is at a stage where he will take runs whichever way they come. But he did execute a couple of pleasing drives and a trademark whip in the mid-wicket region. Shreyas' best strokes were the pick-up shots he hit behind square on the leg-side.

Rashid was England's most threatening bowler (four for 64), but he was far from steady, zoning in and out. He bowled magic deliveries to have Kohli caught behind and Hardik Pandya bowled but also landed rank bad half-volleys and short balls that were deservedly flogged.

The visitors did pull things back in the final 15 overs by limiting India to 356 after the latter was 226 for two in the 35th over. But with another below-par batting effort, they shot themselves in the foot.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Salt b Wood 1 *(2b)*, Shubman Gill b Rashid 112 *(102b, 14x4, 3x6)*, Virat Kohli c Salt b Rashid 52 *(55b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Salt b Rashid 78 *(64b, 8x4, 2x6)*, K.L. Rahul lbw b Mahmood 40 *(29b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya b Rashid 17 *(9b, 2x6)*, Axar Patel c Banton b Root 13 *(12b, 2x4)*, Washington Sundar c Brook b Wood 14 *(14b, 1x4)*, Harshit Rana c Buttler b Atkinson 13 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Arshdeep Singh run out 2 *(2b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-12): 13; Total (in 50 overs): 356.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-6 (Rohit, 1.1 overs), 2-122 (Kohli, 18.6), 3-226 (Gill, 34.3), 4-259 (Shreyas, 38.2), 5-289 (Hardik, 40.6), 6-307 (Axar, 43.5), 7-333 (Rahul, 46.4), 8-353 (Harshit, 48.6), 9-353 (Washington, 49.3).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Mahmood 10-0-68-1, Wood 9-1-45-2, Atkinson 8-0-74-1, Root 5-0-47-1, Rashid 10-0-64-4, Livingstone 8-0-57-0.

ENGLAND

Phil Salt c Axar b Arshdeep 23 *(21b, 4x4)*, Ben Duckett c Rohit b Arshdeep 34 *(22b, 8x4)*, Tom Banton c Rahul b Kuldeep 38 *(41b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Joe Root b Axar 24 *(29b, 2x4)*, Harry Brook b Harshit 19 *(26b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler b Harshit 6 *(9b)*, Liam Livingstone st. Rahul b Washington 9 *(23b, 1x4)*, Gus Atkinson b Axar 38 *(19b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Adil Rashid b Hardik 0 *(5b)*, Mark Wood c Shreyas b Hardik 9 *(7b, 2x4)*, Saqib Mahmood (not out) 2 *(4b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-4, w-3): 12; Total (in 34.2 overs): 214.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-60 (Duckett, 6.2), 2-80 (Salt, 8.4), 3-126 (Banton, 17.6), 4-134 (Root, 20.2), 5-154 (Buttler, 24.1), 6-161 (Brook, 26.6), 7-174 (Livingstone, 29.3), 8-175 (Rashid, 30.3), 9-193 (Wood, 32.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 5-0-33-2, Harshit 5-1-31-2, Washington 5-0-43-1, Axar 6.2-1-22-2, Hardik 5-0-38-2, Kuldeep 8-0-38-1.

Toss: England. **PoM & PoS:** Gill.
India won by 142 runs to sweep series 3-0.

'Wanted to play this game as a must-win'

In smashing form: Shreyas was in his element again. VIJAY SONEJI

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

Gautam Gambhir comes across as someone who always has the bigger picture in mind. On Wednesday, India hammered England by 142 runs to sweep the ODI series 3-0 but the head coach hardly cracked a smile in the post-match media briefing, for his eyes seemed set on the all-important Champions Trophy that begins next week.

"There will never be a case where all the boxes will be ticked," he declared. "We could have easily seen this game as a dead rubber. But we wanted to put ourselves under pressure and wanted to play this game as a must-win. And the guys actually turned up like that."

On Tuesday, India brought in spinner Varun Chakaravarthy in place of opener Yashasvi Jaiswal in its Jasprit Bumrah-less Champions Trophy squad. Gambhir stated that it was done to increase the wicket-taking options.

"We wanted another wicket-taking option in the middle [overs] and we know Varun can be a massive threat," he said. "With a lot of teams not having played him, he could be an X-factor.

"I'm not going to say that he's going to start [every game]. But it's always good to have a strong bowling line-up. Yashasvi has got a fabulous future ahead. It's just that we could only pick 15."

Gambhir also expressed confidence that Shubman Gill would extend his superb ODI form into Test cricket in the near future.

"The problem is that we keep judging people after every innings. You have to trust these young players. Imagine what can happen in the next couple of years if we keep backing them..."

> You can't help it. People like Harshit, Arshdeep, Shami... these guys will put their hand up. We're going to go with a clear mind and try to win the Champions Trophy
> **GAMBHIR**
> on Bumrah's absence

Sachin Yadav hits a new high in javelin; Sawan Barwal breaks another record

NATIONAL GAMES

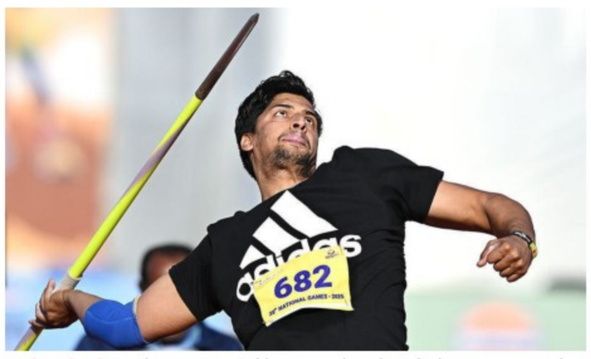
Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

With Neeraj Chopra showing the way with his Olympic and World Championship golds, there is now a bunch of Indian javelin throwers who feel they can get on to the big stage too. And the group appears to be getting bigger and bigger.

Sachin Yadav is one of them. The 25-year-old from Uttar Pradesh produced a personal best 84.39m and broke the meet record by more than two metres to take home the gold in the 38th National Games at the Ganga Stadium here on Wednesday. With that, he climbed to the fifth rung in India's all-time list.

Still, Sachin was a bit disappointed. "My goal was to achieve the World Championship automatic qualification mark (85.50m), but I missed it," he said.

"I'm close to it and I should be able to achieve it in my next competition."



Unleashed: Sachin's personal best saw him break the meet record by more than two metres. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Sachin appeared pumped up, and with his Statemate Rohit Yadav also uncorking two 80m throws, the battle for gold was intense. In the end, Sachin's fifth round brought him the title.

At the other end, defending high jump champion Pooja was in a world of her own.

While the rest of the field faded away at 1.79m, the 17-year-old from Haryana bettered Swapna Barman's three-year-old Games record by one centimetre, clearing 1.84m, and then attempted 1.87 but failed in all her three attempts.

"I was the best junior high jumper in the country, now I want to be the best among seniors too," said Pooja.

Meanwhile, Asian Games bronze medallist Vithya Ramraj lived up to her billing by winning the women's 400m hurdles.

The final day of the Games athletics competition saw another record falling.

Himachal Pradesh's Sawan Barwal, who had bettered the 10,000m meet record on the opening morning, broke G. Lakshmanan's 5000m Games record while winning the gold comfortably.

The results:

Men: 5000m: 1. Sawan Barwal (HP) 13:45.93s MR, OR G. Lakshmanan's 13:50.05, 2015; 2. Gagan Singh (Har) 14:00.04, 3. Sunil Dawar (MP) 14:01.33. **400m hurdles:** 1. Ruchit Mori (Guj) 50.97s, 2. Hardeep (Pun) 51.02, 3. Rohan Kamble (Mah) 51.77. **Javelin throw:** 1. Sachin Yadav (UP) 84.39m MR, OR Rajinder Singh's 82.23, 2015; 2. Rohit Yadav (UP) 80.47, 3. Vikash Sharma (Utk) 79.33. **Women: 5000m:** 1. Ankita (Utk) 15:56.03s, 2. Sanjivani Jadav (Mah) 15:59.12, 3. Poona Sonune (Mah) 16:53.52. **400m hurdles:** 1. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 58.11s, 2. S.K. Sreevarthani (TN) 59.86, 3. Neha Dhabale (Mah) 1:00.52. **High jump:** 1. Pooja (Har) 1.84m MR, OR Swapna Barman's 1.83, 2022; 2. K. Gobika (TN) 1.79m, 3. S. Abhinaya Shetty (Kar) 1.77. **Shot put:** 1. Jasmine Kaur (Pun) 15.97m, 2. Vidhi (UP) 15.46, 3. Srishti Vig (Del) 15.46m. **Mixed: 4x400m relay:** 1. Kerala (T.S. Manu, K. Sneha, J. Bejoy, Ansa Babu) 3:25.35s, 2. Maharashtra (3:25.66), 3. Punjab (3:26.35).

Real Madrid stuns Man City; Dembele scores brace as PSG downs Brest

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Jude Bellingham snatched a stoppage-time winner as Real Madrid twice came from behind to beat Manchester City 3-2 in the first leg of their blockbuster Champions League play-off tie Tuesday, while Paris Saint-Germain took command of an all-French clash with Brest.

Erling Haaland's double – his first goals in five appearances against Madrid – looked to have secured Pep Guardiola's side a slender advantage, but instead the reigning European champion now goes into next week's return leg in Spain as strong favourite to reach the last 16.

It is the fourth consecutive season City and Madrid have met in the knockout phase of the competition, with the winner in each of the past three encounters going on to lift the trophy.

City overcame a slow start at the Etihad and took the lead in the 19th minute as Haaland steered past Thibaut Courtois after Josko Gvardiol chested down a pass from Jack Grealish.

Top shot: Bellingham bundles in Real's last-gasp winner against Manchester City. AFP

Vinicius Junior hit the crossbar for Madrid before City defender Manuel Akanji did likewise with a header, while Haaland was denied a second goal right after half-time when his deflected shot came back off the woodwork.

Madrid equalised on the hour after the City wall blocked a free-kick, with Dani Ceballos clipping the ball back into the area where Mbappe's mishit volley looped into the net after coming off his shin and leaving Ederson stranded.

City regained the lead 10 minutes from time as Haaland stuck away a penalty after Phil Foden was clattered by Ceballos.

But former City player Brahim Diaz levelled for Madrid in the 86th minute after a dreadful kick by Ederson, and Bellingham punished the host for more suspect defending as the England midfielder struck the winning goal at the death. In France, Ousmane Dembele continued his sensational goalscoring form as he netted twice for PSG in a 3-0 win over Brest.

Juventus won 2-1 at home to PSV Eindhoven in the first leg of their tie in Turin. Borussia Dortmund is on the cusp of the last 16 after winning 3-0 away to Sporting Lisbon.

The results: Brest 0 lost to PSG 3 (Vitinha 21-pen, Dembele 45, 66); Juventus 2 (McKennie 34, Mbangula 82) bt PSV Eindhoven 1 (Perisic 56); Manchester City 2 (Haaland 19, 80-pen) lost to Real Madrid 3 (Mbappe 60, Diaz 86, Bellingham 90+2); Sporting 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 3 (Guirassy 60, Gross 68, Adeyemi 82).

INBRIEF

Asalanka helps Sri Lanka pull off a heist against Australia

Sri Lanka pulled off a stunning comeback against world champion Australia to clinch a 49-run victory in the first ODI in Colombo on Wednesday after a century by captain Charith Asalanka.

The scores: Sri Lanka 214 in 46 overs (Asalanka 127; Abbott 3/61) bt Australia 165 in 33.5 overs (Carey 41; Theekshana 4/40). **Toss**: Sri Lanka. **PoM**: Asalanka

Kuhnemann's bowling action reported

Australian cricketer Matt Kuhnemann will be forced to undergo biomechanical testing on his bowling action after the left-arm spinner was reported by umpires during the recent Test series win in Sri Lanka. Australian media reported on Wednesday that Kuhnemann has been referred to the ICC and faces a ban if his bowling action is deemed to be beyond the limit for the degree of arm flexion permitted.

India romps past Macau, seals quarterfinal berth

India made a sizzling start to its campaign, delivering a 5-0 thrashing to Macau in its opening Group- D tie of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship at Qingdao (China) on Wednesday. India is assured of a quarterfinal berth and will face Korea in its final tie.

The result: India 5 bt Macau 0 [Lakshya Sen bt Pang Fong Pui 21-16, 21-12; Malvika Bansod bt Hao Wai Chan 21-15, 21-9; Chirag Shetty & M.R. Arjun bt Chin Pon Pui & Kok Wen Vong 21-15, 21-19; Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopi Chand bt NG Weng Chi & Pui Chi Wa 21-10, 21-5; Sathish Kumar Karunakaran & Aadya Variyath bt Iok Chong Leong & Weng Chi Ng 21-10, 21-9].

City's Grealish injured in CL match against Real

Manchester City forward Jack Grealish was injured and substituted after 30 minutes in Tuesday's Champions League playoff against Real Madrid. Grealish crouched down in his own half and received treatment before being replaced by Phil Foden.

Sriram Balaji advances to doubles quarterfinals

Sriram Balaji and Miguel Reyes-Varela of Mexico beat Ethan Quinn and Learner Tien 3-6, 6-2, [10-4] in the pre-quarterfinals of the $766,290 ATP tournament in Delray Beach.

Other results: $200,000 Challenger, Manama, Bahrain: Doubles: Pre-quarters: Ivan Liutarevich & Luca Sanchez (Fra) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Ray Ho (Tpe) 7-6(4), 6-3; Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Saketh Mynnei & Colin Sinclair (Nmi) 6-4, 7-6(1). **$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: First round:** Manas Dhamne bt Alberto Campos (Esp) 7-6(2), 6-3. **Doubles: Pre-quarters:** Oleksii Krutykh (Ukr) & Dimitris Sakellaridis (Gre) bt Lorenzo Carboni (Ita) & Manas Dhamne 6-7(4), 7-6(0), [10-7].

Punjab takes control against Karnataka

Punjab took control against Karnataka on the third day of its C.K. Nayudu (under-23) Trophy match against Karnataka at Mohali on Wednesday. After dismissing Karnataka for 177, Punjab rode on Jaskaranvir Singh's 91 to finish the day on 259 for seven. Punjab holds an impregnable overall lead of 462 runs.

The scores: Punjab 380 & 259/7 in 85 overs (Jaskaranvir Singh 91, Salil Arora 34, Rahul Kumar 26, Harjas Singh 46 batting, Ayush Goyal 32 batting) vs Karnataka 177 in 61.2 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 78, Aneeshwar Gautam 35, K.P. Karthikeya 26, Aryaman Dhaliwal 4/52, Harjas Singh 3/31).

LIVE TELECAST

I-League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2 & 4.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Conference League: Sony LIV, 11.15 & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Nizar, Azharuddeen hold firm as Kerala makes semifinals thanks to one-run lead

The batters keep J&K's bowlers at bay on the final day; skipper Baby and opener Chandran lead the way with patient knocks

RANJI TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
PUNE

It was a test of patience for the Kerala batters which they managed to pass with flying colours, batting out the final day of its Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Jammu and Kashmir to force a draw. The one-run lead in the first innings eventually made all the difference as Sachin Baby and Co. made the final four.

Pursuing a target of 399, Kerala was never in a hurry to chase it down. Rather the plan seemed quite clear from the start: to play by the merit of the ball and bat out the day, something it had done in the group league fixture against Madhya Pradesh, earlier this season.

Resuming at 100 for 2, captain Sachin Baby and Akshay Chandran judged the early morning conditions well, and denied the J&K bowlers any opportunity to make inroads.

We've done it: Azharuddeen and Nizar showed resilience to ensure Kerala's progress. EMMANUAL YOGINI

With the entire Kerala camp backing the batters with continuous synchronised clapping, both Baby and Chandran chose to be watchful and added only 28 runs in the first 24 overs. With the MCA Stadium surface offering no help to the bowlers, Baby and Chandran held fort, and occasionally took singles.

However, shortly before lunch, Chandran fell two runs short of his fifty, after being caught by Shubham Khajuria off Sahil Lotra. Early in the second session, off-spinner Sahil and left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq, however, spiced things up with quick wickets of Baby, Jalaj Saxena and Aditya Sarvate.

Baby, the Kerala captain, was unlucky to have missed out on a fifty, falling just two runs short, as he nicked one to wicketkeeper Kanhaiya Wadhawan off Lotra.

Quick strikes

With three quick wickets, a rejuvenated J&K side waited a bit before taking the new ball. However, with Mohammed Azharuddeen (67 n.o., 118b, 9x4, 2x6) and Salman Nizar (44 n.o., 162, 8x4) coming up with an unbroken partnership of 115, the northern side's hopes of reaching its maiden semifinal went up in smoke.

Riding the confidence of a first innings century, Nizar anchored the innings, whereas Azharuddeen played a few shots to put the pressure on the opponent. J&K used seven bowlers to find breakthroughs, but a determined effort by the Kerala batters saw the team reach the semifinals after six years.

The scores:
Jammu and Kashmir — 1st innings: 280.
Kerala — 1st innings: 281.
Jammu and Kashmir — 2nd innings: 399 for 9 decl.
Kerala — 2nd innings: Rohan Kunnummal c Wadhawan b Yudhvir 36, Akshay Chandran c Khajuria b Lotra 48, Shoun Roger c Vivrant b Yudhvir 6, Sachin Baby c Wadhawan b Lotra 48, Jalaj Saxena c Nazir b Mushtaq 18, Aditya Sarvate c Nazir b Mushtaq 8, Salman Nizar (not out) 44, Mohammed Azharuddeen (not out) 67; Extras (nb-2, b-17, lb-1) 20; Total (for six wkts. in 126 overs): 295.
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-70, 3-128, 4-159, 5-167, 6-180.
Jammu and Kashmir bowling: Nabi 20-6-49-0, Nazir 14-4-35-0, Yudhvir 21-4-61-2, Lotra 36-17-50-2, Khajuria 1-0-5-0, Muzaffar 9-2-17-0, Mushtaq 22-9-56-2, Vivrant 3-2-4-0.
Match drawn; Kerala enters semifinals based on first-innings lead.

A sensational nine-under 61 gives Sandhu the sole lead

Yuvraj in action on Wednesday.

GOLF

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Yuvraj Sandhu shot a sensational nine-under 61 to take the sole lead after the second round of the season-opening Tata Steel PGTI Players Championship at the Tollygunge Club course on Wednesday.

Overnight joint leader Sandhu totalled 16-under 124 to take a three-shot lead at the halfway stage.

Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain struck an impressive eight-under 62 to take the second position with an aggregate of 127.

Five players, including Honey Baisoya, Rahil Gangjee, S.S.P. Chawrasia, M. Dharma and Arjun Sharma, shared the third place with an identical total of 130. The cut was decided at two-under 138. Fifty-nine professionals and one amateur, Anshul Mishra, made the cut.

The scores (second round):
124-Yuvraj Sandhu (63, 61); 127-Jamal Hossain (65, 62); 130-S.S.P. Chawrasia (64, 66), M. Dharma (67, 63), Arjun Sharma (63, 67), Honey Baisoya (65, 65), Rahil Gangjee (63, 67); 131-Shamim Khan (67, 64).

Starc withdraws, Smith to lead Australia in Champions Trophy

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Steve Smith-led Australia will be without its frontline pace attack at the Champions Trophy after Mitchell Starc withdrew from the tournament citing personal reasons.

The ODI World Cup holder has been forced to make several changes to its 15-member provisional squad due to injuries to captain Pat Cummins, pacer Josh Hazlewood, and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, along with Marcus Stoinis' surprise retirement.

The squad: Steve Smith (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, Adam Zampa.
Travelling reserve:

Cooper Connolly.

Rhythm beats Manu in shoot-off in sports pistol

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rhythm Sangwan beat Manu Bhaker 4-3 in the shoot-off after the two were tied osn 37 in the 25-metre sports pistol in the National shooting trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Wednesday.

Except for the satisfaction of beating Manu, the effort did not fetch much benefit for Rhythm as she had shot a below par 578 in qualification, as compared to 591 by Manu.

With the second trials in the event having finished, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was prompt in putting out the average moving scores that placed Manu, Simranrpeet Kaur Brar and Esha Singh as the top three, followed by Rahi Sarnobat, T.S. Divya and Rhythm.

The eventual rankings apart, the final line up had the cream, with Abhinya Patil, Esha (588), Rahi (588), Heena and Chinki placing fourth to eighth.

In the men's 50-metre rifle 3-position event, Swapnil Kusale beat Akhil Sheoran by 2.6 points, for the top spot, while Chain Singh placed third ahead of qualification topper Kiran Jadhav (596).

Manu, Rhythm, and Simranpreet Kaur, the toppers in sports pistol.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In women's air rifle, Arya Borse topped with 253.5, half a point ahead of Ananya Naidu. Mehuli Ghosh placed third after having topped qualification with 635.4.

Such an effort could not help Mehuli's cause immediately, as the moving averages project Arya, Narmada Nithin and Sonam Maskar as the top three, followed by Eleavenil Valarivan, Ananya and Meghana Sajjanar.

Similarly, in men's air rifle, Rudrankksh Patil, Arjun Babuta and Hriday Hazarika were the top-3 in the averages, ahead of Sandeep Singh, Kiran Jadhav and Smit Moradiya.

In rapid fire pistol, Anish Bhanwala and Vijayveer Sidhu were far ahead of the rest in the averages, and were followed by Gurpreet Singh.

The results: 10m air rifle: Women: 1. Arya Borse 253.5 (632.8); 2. Ananya Naidu 253.0 (633.5); 3. Mehuli Ghosh 230.6 (635.4).
25m sports pistol: Women: 1. Rhythm Sangwan 37(4) 578; 2. Manu Bhaker 37(3) 591; 3. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 32 (588).
50m rifle 3-position: Men: 1. Swapnil Kusale 465.1 (592); 2. Akhil Sheoran 462.5 (593); 3. Chain Singh 451.7 (589).

Geerts beats Mukund to make the quarterfinals

DELHI OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Michael Geerts of Belgium scotched the Indian hopes as he defeated S. Mukund 6-4, 7-5 victory in the pre-quarterfinals of the Dafanews $100,000 Delhi Open Challenger tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday.

While Mukund played quality tennis at times, the Belgian was consistent and was able to wriggle out of tight situations and capitalised on the chances to make it a straightforward affair. The Indian showed what he was capable of by breaking serve in the tenth game of the second set when Geerts was serving for the match.

However, it was too late as the Belgian served out the match in the 12th game.

In another match, third seed Tristan Schoolkate of Australia warded off a stiff challenge from the towering Valentin Vacherot of Monaco to pull through in three sets. It was the first win in three meetings for the 23-year-old Schoolkate

In doubles, the second-seeded Niki Poonacha and Courtney Lock of Zimbabwe played an entertaining all-round game, delivering crisp volleys at the crunch to move into the quarterfinals, with a 10-6 victory in the super tie-break against the Czech pair of Marek Gengel and Dalibor Svrcina.

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Karan Singh had their chances against Shintaro Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi, but a few errors saw the duo lose 7-10 in the super tie-break.

The results (pre-quartefinals):
Singles: Michael Geerts (Bel) bt S. Mukund 6-4, 7-5; Kyrian Jacquet (Fra) bt Jay Clarke (GBR) 7-5, 6-3; Andre Ilagan (USA) bt Timofei Skatov (Kaz) 6-2, 6-3; Tristan Schoolkate (Aus) bt Valentin Vacherot (Mon) 7-6(4), 3-6, 6-4.

Doubles: Enzo Couacaud (Fra) & Kelsey Stevenson (Can) bt Parth Aggarwal & Sidharth Rawat 6-1, 6-3; Masamichi Imamura & Rio Noguchi (Jpn) bt Enrico Dalla Valle (Ita) & Oleksandr Ovcharenko (Ukr) 7-6(5), 6-2; Hynek Barton & Vit Kopriva (Cze) bt Corentin Denolly & Sascha Wayenburg (Fra) 7-5, 7-5; Kris Van Wyk (RSA) & Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Prajwal Dev & Sai Karteek Reddy 6-4, 6-3; Kimmer Coppejans & Michael Geerts (Bel) bt August Holmgren & Elmer Moller (Den) 6-2, 6-2; Jay Clarke (GBR) & Johannes Ingildsen (Den) bt Siddhant Banthia & Parikshit somani 6-3, 6-2; Shintaro Mochizuki & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan & Karan Singh 3-6, 6-1, [10-7]; Niki Poonacha & Courtney Lock (Zim) bt Marek Gengel & Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) 2-6, 7-6(5), [10-6].

Pulling through: Schoolkate warded off a stiff challenge from Vacherot. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Injured Ghazanfar to miss both CT and IPL

Press Trust of India
KABUL

Teenage Afghanistan off-spinner AM Ghazanfar has been ruled out of both the ICC Champions Trophy and the IPL due to a lower back fracture that will keep him on the sidelines for at least four months.

Left-arm spinner Nangeyalia Kharote has replaced the 18-year-old in the main squad for Champions Trophy.

The squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (Capt.), Ibrahim Zadran, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah (vice-capt), Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Fareeh Ahmad, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Nangeyalia Kharote, Naveed Zadran and Noor Ahmad.